

38 North Spies Missile Activity

MATTHEW PENNINGTON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Satellite imagery indicates North Korea has been testing rocket engines, a sign it continues to develop its long-range ballistic missiles, a U.S. academic institute said Monday. The analysis provided to The Associated Press is based on satellite images taken as recently as late September of the Sohae site on the secretive country's northwest coast. In April, the North launched a rocket from there in a failed attempt to propel a satellite into space in defiance of a U.N. ban. The analysis on the website of the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of



This satellite image shows a facility in Sohae, North Korea where analysts believe rocket engines have been tested in a sign North Korea continues to develop its long-range ballistic missiles.

(AP Photo/DigitalGlobe/SAIS)

Advanced International Studies, which is called "38 North," said it remains unclear whether the North is preparing another rocket launch but predicted it may embark on new rocket and nuclear tests in the first half of 2013.

The analysis underscores the challenges posed by the North's weapons programs to the United States and its allies as President Barack Obama heads into his second term.

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Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta speaks to the media during a briefing aboard his airplane in flight over the Pacific Ocean en route from Honolulu to Perth, Australia, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.

(AP Photo/Saul Loeb, Pool)

Panetta: US deciding on post-2014 troop levels

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT OVER THE PACIFIC (AP) —

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said Monday the Obama administration is nearing a decision in the next few weeks on how many U.S. troops would remain in Afghanistan — and for what purposes — after the U.S.-led combat mission ends in 2014.

Panetta told reporters aboard his plane en route from Hawaii to Australia that Gen. John Allen, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, has developed several options on a post-2014 presence.

Panetta also was asked about his future at the Pentagon. While he declined to reveal his plans, he sug-

gested he still had work to do on the job he took in July 2011.

"It's no secret that at some point I'd like to get back to California," he said. Panetta is from Monterey, California.

He added that there are a number of important defense issues awaiting resolution, including a budget impasse and the future of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan — suggesting that he would not leave immediately.

"Right now, my goal is to basically meet my responsibilities with regard to dealing with those issues," Panetta said.

Pressed to say whether he would rule out staying for all four years of a second Obama term, he replied, "Who the hell knows?"

Panetta said the Pentagon is reviewing those options with the White House. He would not reveal what troop levels are being considered, but it is believed that at least several thousand could be needed for several years beyond 2014. "My hope is that we'll be able to complete this process in the next few weeks," Panetta said.

The decision will depend in part of the Afghan government's willingness to permit a post-2014 U.S. military presence and to provide legal guarantees for those troops that are acceptable to Washington.

Once that decision is made, U.S. officials have said they will set a timetable for reducing troop levels between now and the end of 2014. There now are

about 67,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, and their mission is evolving from combat to advising, assisting and training Afghan forces. A post-2014 U.S. military presence also would be expected to include hunting and killing extremists, including members of al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

Asked about David Petraeus's resignation as CIA director over revelations that he had an affair with his biographer, Panetta said he saw it as a "very sad situation to have him end his career like that." Panetta was CIA director before Petraeus.

"I think he took the right step" by resigning, Panetta added.

Continued on Page 4

Israel reports 'direct hits' on Syrian military target

ARIEL SCHALIT
JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

TEL HAZEKA, Golan Heights (AP) — Israeli tanks struck a Syrian artillery launcher Monday after a stray mortar shell flew into Israel-held territory, the first direct clash between the neighbors since the Syrian uprising began nearly two years ago.

desperation. Israeli officials believe it is only a matter of time before Syrian rebels topple the longtime leader. The conflict has already spilled over into several of Syria's other neighbors — whether in direct violence or in the flood of refugees fleeing the bloodshed. More than 36,000 Syrians have been killed in the

that could wreak havoc if deployed. Fighting between the countries could also drag in Syria's close ally, the Lebanese guerrilla group Hezbollah, or Islamic militant groups in the Gaza Strip on Israel's southern flank. Israeli political scientist Dore Gold, an informal adviser to Netanyahu, said



Smoke rises after shells fired by the Syrian army explode in the Syrian village of Bariqa, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012. The Israeli military says "Syrian mobile artillery" was hit after responding to stray mortar fire from its northern neighbor.

(AP Photo/Ariel Schalit)

The confrontation fueled new fears that the Syrian civil war could drag Israel into the violence, a scenario with grave consequences for the region. The fighting has already spilled into Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

"We are closely monitoring what is happening and will respond appropriately. We will not allow our borders to be violated or our citizens to be fired upon," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday in a speech to foreign ambassadors.

While officials believe President Bashar Assad has no interest in picking a fight with Israel, they fear the embattled Syrian leader may try to draw Israel into the fighting in a bout of

fighting, according to estimates by anti-Assad activists.

On Monday, a Syrian fighter jet bombed a rebel-held area hugging the border with Turkey three times, killing 15 to 20 people, according to a Turkish official. Separately, eight wounded Syrians died in Turkey, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media. Potential Israeli involvement in Syria could be far more explosive. The bitter enemies both possess air forces, tanks and significant arsenals of missiles and other weapons.

Although the Israeli military is more modern and powerful, Syria has a collection of chemical weapons

neither Israel nor Syria has any interest in escalating the fighting.

"I see no indication of Assad wanting to draw Israel in. But if violence comes from the Syrian army, or even forces operating in Syria that are affiliated with al-Qaida, Israel has to do what is necessary to make sure there's no spillover into Israeli territory," he said. He described Israel's reaction Monday as a "carefully calibrated response."

"On the one hand, it shows Israel's determination to protect its civilians, and at the same time, it indicates it doesn't want to get drawn in," he said.

Israel has warily watched the fighting in Syria for months, carefully trying to avoid any involvement. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Dutch coalition overhauling unpopular austerity package

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

Newly installed Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte says he is dumping part of an austerity package just days after it was unveiled to widespread disapproval from members of his own party. Rutte's initial plan to raise revenue and cut the gap between rich and poor by making the wealthy pay higher health care premiums has been scrapped following revelations that it would cost some

wealthy families thousands of euros more per year than expected. Rutte said Monday the savings would now be made by raising income taxes for the wealthy. The unpopular original measure and its replacement were hammered out by Rutte's conservative VVD party and its new coalition partner, the center-left Labor Party. Rutte acknowledged he "should have taken more time to study" the effects of the original plan. □

CAR president's son jailed over unpaid \$15K hotel bill

IBANGUI, Central African Republic (AP) —

Police say that Central African Republic President Francois Bozize had his son arrested over an unpaid hotel bill. Captain Kevin Bozize has been held at Bangui jail of the Research and Investigations Section since Nov. 6 for not paying a bill of 8 million CFA (\$15,000) at the Ledger Plaza Hotel. According to the lieutenant command-

ing the Research and Investigations Section, who refused to give his name, Kevin Bozize stayed several times at the new hotel but did not pay his bill. Hotel officials also confirmed that the president agreed that his son should be arrested over the debt. The Ledger Plaza hotel opened in September and has had a problem with unpaid bills. □

French doctors protesting for cost-controlling efforts

PARIS (AP) —

Hundreds of French doctors, many wearing white lab coats and blue surgical caps, are marching in Paris in a protest over work conditions and government efforts to rein in their pay. France's state health fund has fixed rates of reimbursements for many doctors' services. When doctors charge more than that, patients or their private supplemental insur-

ance pay the rest. Many doctors oppose a plan by Health Minister Marisol Touraine that aims to limit how much doctors charge above the state insurance system's reimbursements. France has drawn plaudits for its health care system. But many doctors complain of being overworked and fear a slide toward free-market, American-style health care. □

Brazil: Former da Silva aide sentenced over corruption

SAO PAULO (AP) —

Brazil's Supreme Court has sentenced the former top aide of ex-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to nearly 11 years in prison on corruption charges. Jose Dirceu was Silva's all-powerful chief of staff, but he was found guilty of orchestrat-

ing a cash-for-votes bribery scheme to win support for the president's proposals in congress. News of the scheme broke in 2005. The top court on Monday sentenced him to 10 years and 10 months in prison. It wasn't clear when he would begin serving the time. □

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US re-elected to 3-year UN Human Rights Council seat



MICHAEL ASTOR
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States was re-elected Monday to another three-year term on the U.N. Human Rights Council in the only contested election for the organization's top human rights body. The U.S. was competing with four countries for three open seats belonging to the Western Group on the council. Germany and Ireland were also elected by the 193-member General Assembly. Greece and Sweden lost out. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice said her country was "pleased and proud to have been re-elected to a second three-year term." "I'm proud to say that, today, the Obama administration's leadership of the Human Rights Council has delivered real results. Today's vote affirms that active U.S. leadership in the Human Rights Council and throughout the United Nations system will continue to pay real dividends for Americans and for the rest of the world," Rice said following the vote. Germany's U.N. Ambassador Peter Wittig also praised the vote, thanking member

states for their support. "It was a good sign that we had a healthy competition at least in the Western Group, we could explain and promote our human rights agenda and we believe this also should also be an example for other regional groups," Wittig said. African, Asian, Eastern European and Latin American countries put forward uncontested slates, meaning candidates were virtually certain of winning one of the 18 open seats up for grabs in this year's election on the 47-member council. Several human rights groups have criticized a number of the candidates as unqualified, including Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Venezuela. On Monday, Venezuela's U.N. Ambassador Jorge Valero said his country's efforts to become a member of the council had "unleashed a truly unusual campaign." "It's important to emphasize that Venezuela has committed itself to defend the sovereignty and liberty of people," Valero said in an apparent allusion to Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's comments that Venezuela would oppose any actions or aggressions against allied countries such as Syria or Cuba. The five Western nations competing for seats were all deemed qualified by the rights groups as was Estonia, which was elected from the Eastern Europe group. □

New satellite imagery shows North Korean missile activity

Continued from front

Washington's most recent attempt to negotiate a freeze in the North's nuclear program and a test moratorium in exchange for food aid collapsed with the April launch that the U.S. regarded as a cover for testing ballistic missile technology.

In 2009, North Korea tested a long-range missile and its second nuclear weapon within months of Obama taking office, and the 38 North analysis says North Korea may conduct new tests in the aftermath of presidential elections recently completed in U.S. and due in December in South Korea. That could be viewed as a tactic to exert more pressure on the close allies as the North seeks recognition as a nuclear power.

Last month, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said North Korea continues to prepare for such tests, and the North, angered by Washington's recent agreement to let Seoul possess missiles capable of hitting all of its territory, has recently claimed that the U.S. mainland is within range of its missiles. According to South Korea's Defense Ministry, North Korean missiles are believed to have a range of up to about 4,160 miles, putting parts of Alaska within reach. But the North is not believed to have mastered

the technology needed to hit a distant target and miniaturize a nuclear warhead to mount on a missile. The North has a spotty re-

tests are another clear sign that its missile program is moving forward. Whether there will be another long-range missile test this spring



This satellite image provided by DigitalGlobe shows a facility in Sohae, North Korea where analysts believe rocket engines have been tested in a sign North Korea continues to develop its long-range ballistic missiles. The website of the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS said Monday Nov. 12, 2012 that it remains unclear whether the North is preparing a rocket launch but predicted it may embark on new rocket and nuclear tests in the first half of 2013.

(AP Photo/DigitalGlobe/SAIS)

cord in test launches, raising doubts about whether it is truly capable of a long-distance attack. The 38 North analysis concludes that since the failed launch on April 13 of the Unha-3 rocket that disintegrated shortly after takeoff, the North has conducted at least two, and possibly more, tests of large rocket motors at a test site about a half mile away. The tests are critical for the development of new rockets.

"Pyongyang's large motor

remains unclear but is a distinct possibility," said Joel Wit, a former U.S. State Department official and editor of 38 North.

An April 9 satellite image shows what appear to be dozens of fuel tanks near a stand used for conducting tests of rocket engines. A Sept. 17 image shows the tanks are no longer there, and a flame trench has been stained orange and surrounding vegetation has been burned from the exhaust of an engine. □

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US Congress reconvenes, fiscal crisis looms heavily

STEVEN R. HURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Congress clanks and grinds back into session Tuesday for the first time since the election last week, confronting the huge and immediate task of stitching together a compromise on spending and taxes to avoid what's been termed the "fiscal cliff," a precipice that could return the country to an economic recession and spike unemployment.

Complicating everything: Will a politically strengthened President Barack Obama be ready to give ground after his commanding second term victory? Same goes for opposition Republicans who held control of the House of Representatives.

Also hanging over the unsettled political landscape is the largely unrelated but distracting wild-card revelations of marital infidelity that drove former Gen. David Petraeus to resign as CIA director days after the elections. Petraeus, one of the most widely respected general officer of his generation, left the military and leadership of the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan to run the CIA at Obama's request. The retired general had been spoken of as a possible future Republican candidate for president.

His troubles are bound to feed into Republican criticism of the administration's handling of the Sept. 11 consulate attack in Benghazi, Libya, in which extremists killed the U.S. ambassador and three other

Americans. Petraeus had been scheduled to appear before congressional committees on Thursday to testify about the attack. CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell is expected to testify instead.

That major distraction aside, Washington politicians have just over seven weeks, including breaks for Thanksgiving next week and the Christmas holidays, to find a way back from the brink of the "fiscal cliff" — the year-end, economy-jarring expiration of tax cuts Americans have enjoyed for a decade, combined with big across-the-board reductions in spending for the military and domestic programs.

That outcome — barring legislative compromise by Jan. 31 — is self-imposed punishment for last year's failure by a bitterly divided Congress and White House to deal with the government's spiraling debt and overhaul its unwieldy tax code. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the austerity program would reduce the deficit by nearly \$700 billion by the end of 2013. But the non-partisan organization also says millions of jobs could be lost, which could knock the U.S. economy back into a recession.

Neither Republicans nor Democrats wanted to sign onto any deal in advance of the November election, but agreed to legislatively dictate onerous tax increases and spending cuts afterward as an incentive for compromise by Dec. 31. □

Panetta: US deciding on troop levels

Continued from front

Panetta was beginning a weeklong trip to Asia to meet with his counterparts in Australia, Thailand and Cambodia. He said this was an important expression of the Obama administration's commitment to deepening ties in the region and developing more

But it is not fundamentally different from what the administration of President George W. Bush was pursuing even as it got mired in Iraq and saw stalemate in Afghanistan.

In June 2007, then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates argued at a security conference in Singapore that the U.S. was increasingly fo-

months ago.

Panetta said the Pentagon and the State Department are assessing what additional or improved arrangements might be necessary to secure U.S. diplomatic outposts in the Middle East. He was not specific.

As for the Benghazi attack, Panetta said it was "largely over" by the time the Pen-



Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta speaks to the media during a briefing aboard his airplane in flight over the Pacific Ocean en route from Honolulu to Perth, Australia, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.

(AP Photo/Saul Loeb, Pool)

security partnerships.

For decades American administrations have fought the perception among Asians that Washington paid too little attention to their security interests. This view was reinforced during the years of U.S. focus on Iraq, and it persists even as the war in Afghanistan winds down.

The Obama administration has made much of its "pivot" to the Asia-Pacific, which has entailed more high-level diplomatic and security engagements and an attempt to expand cooperation with Australia and others in the region.

cused on Asia.

"Far from neglecting Asia, the U.S. is more engaged than ever before," he said. "We have been extraordinarily busy in recent years as we reshape and strengthen our security ties based on shared interests. Some are bilateral relationships that have been formed, renewed, or modernized - each with varying types and degrees of cooperation."

Among the issues dogging Panetta and the Pentagon is the controversy over the U.S. response to an attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, two

tagon was able to move forces close enough to Libya to respond.

Asked about the prospect of Congress and the administration settling for a short-term fix to the budget deficit crisis, rather than agreeing on measures to end the threat of further large defense spending cuts, Panetta said, "That's the worst thing that could happen."

He added: "That's the last damn thing I need right now," because it would perpetuate uncertainty about future defense spending and defense priorities. □

Petraeus insists wasn't aware of threatening emails

ADAM GOLDMAN

ANNE FLAHERTY

KIMBERLY DOZIER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ex-CIA director David Petraeus has told friends he was shocked to find that his biographer and girlfriend was suspected of sending anonymous, threatening emails to a Petraeus friend she saw as a romantic rival. An FBI investigation of the emails uncovered the affair and led to the stunning resignation of the retired general as the U.S. spy chief. Petraeus' resignation last week — after a stellar and disciplined career that included commanding the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — has prompted members of Congress to ask whether national security was compromised and why they weren't told

sooner.

A close Petraeus associate said Monday that FBI investigators told Petraeus that his biographer, Paula Broadwell, sent anonymous emails to Jill Kelley, a Petraeus family friend from his time at Central Command in Tampa, warning her to stay away from him.

The Petraeus associate spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss confidential conversations with Petraeus. The CIA director resigned Friday last week after confessing to the affair.

Petraeus was not shown the emails, but was told the tone and content seemed threatening to Kelley, prompting her to report them, the close Petraeus associate said.

That triggered the investigation that led the FBI to

Broadwell and evidence of her affair with Petraeus.



Ex-CIA director David Petraeus, standing with his wife Holly, participates in an armed forces farewell tribute and retirement ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

The affair began in 2011, two months after he be-

came CIA director, a friend and former top aide said

Monday. The case has sparked an uproar in Con-

gress over FBI investigative tactics and complaints by lawmakers they weren't told soon enough about the probe rocking the intelligence and law enforcement establishment. Petraeus and his family are said to be devastated over the affair, especially his wife Holly, who "is not exactly pleased right now," said Steve Boylan, a friend and former Petraeus spokesman who spoke to Petraeus over the weekend.

"Furious would be an understatement," Boylan told ABC's "Good Morning America." He said Petraeus ended the affair four months ago. Members of Congress said they want to know more details about the FBI investigation that revealed the extramarital affair between Petraeus and Broadwell. They questioned when the retired general popped up in the FBI inquiry, whether national security was compromised and why they weren't told sooner. Petraeus, 60, has been married 38 years to Holly Petraeus, with whom he has two adult children, including a son who led an infantry platoon in Afghanistan as an Army lieutenant. Broadwell, a 40-year-old graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and an Army Reserve officer, is married with two young sons. □

Owner: Furnace may be behind deadly blast

CHARLES WILSON

TOM LOBIANCO

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The owner of one of the homes that exploded in Indianapolis said Monday that a furnace could be to blame for the blast that killed two people and damaged dozens of homes so severely officials say they must be demolished. John Shirley, 50, told The Associated Press that his daughter sent him a text message last week complaining that the furnace in the home where she lives with her mother and her mother's boyfriend had gone out and required them to stay at hotel. But Shirley also said when he asked if the furnace had been fixed, his daughter said yes, and he wasn't aware of any additional problems until he heard from his daughter again Sunday morning.

His ex-wife, Monserrate Shirley, declined to comment Monday.

Citizens Energy, the natural gas supplier to the home, did not receive any reports about a faulty furnace at the home, but the homeowner wouldn't necessarily report such a problem

to the utility, spokeswoman Sarah Holsapple said. And if the homeowner hired someone to fix the furnace, the contractor wouldn't need to tell the utility.

"It's too early to speculate that this might have been caused by a gas leak," Holsapple said at an afternoon news briefing. Citizens Energy tested for gas leaks in the neighborhood but hasn't found any. She said crews were also testing lines that run from the gas main to the home

and were testing the home's gas meter. She said the utility had no record of abnormal gas consumption in the home that exploded.

Investigators said they have not determined a cause for the Saturday night blast that sparked a massive fire, blew out windows, collapsed ceilings and shook homes up to three miles (five kilometers) away. "It's a methodical investigation. You have to move one step at a time," the

city's homeland security director, Gary Coons, told reporters.

Investigators do not believe a meth lab was involved, but there were numerous other possible causes, Coons said.

Public Safety Director Troy Riggs said the search for answers could take some time and investigators will treat the area as a crime scene until they rule out foul play. □



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US Catholic bishops maintain position against gay marriage

RACHEL ZOLL

AP Religion Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — A subdued U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops acknowledged Monday that voters rejected the stands they took against gay marriage and birth control, but gave no sign they would change

Republican Mitt Romney. The bishops insist their complaints were not partisan. Still, they now must face four more years with a U.S. presidency that many bishops characterized as a threat to the church. "We've always maintained our openness to dialogue,

Latino Catholics on traditional marriage and organize events on the importance of religious freedom. Obama won the overall Catholic vote, 50 percent to 48 percent, but Catholics split on ethnic lines. White Catholics supported Romney, 59 percent to 40 percent.

However, Latino Catholics went for Obama, 75 percent to 21 percent. Last week, Maine, Maryland and Washington became the first states ever to approve same-sex marriage by popular vote. In Minnesota, voters rejected a proposal to place a ban on gay-marriage in the state constitution, a step taken in past elections in 30 other states.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, the newly installed leader of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, said gay marriage opponents were outspent by gay rights groups, and bishops are grappling with how they can be more persuasive. Surveys by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life have found that the number of Americans who say they have no religion is at a high of 20 percent, while the number of former Catholics is so large that ex-Catholics collectively include more people than many denominations. "The election is a symptom of a much larger problem," Cordileone said. "Most people don't understand what marriage is."



Rep. Maggie McIntosh, D-Baltimore City, gives a thumbs up after members of the Maryland House of Delegates passed a gay marriage bill in Annapolis, Md. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops acknowledged Monday that voters rejected their stance against gay marriage.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

their strategy. Same-sex marriage supporters made a four-state sweep of U.S. ballot measures last week, despite intensive advocacy by Roman Catholic bishops in favor of traditional marriage. Bishops also spoke out sharply against President Barack Obama's mandate that most employers provide health insurance that covers artificial contraception. Critics accused the bishops of going so far that they appeared to be backing

and that will continue," said Baltimore Archbishop William Lori, who leads the bishops' committee on religious liberty. "As this evolves, as rule-making gets a little more clear, then our range of options will be clearer." None of the bishops who spoke Monday directly mentioned Obama. Lori only noted that "the political landscape is the same." The bishops instead reviewed plans they developed well before Election Day to expand outreach to

Armstrong cuts official ties with his Livestrong charity

JULIET MACUR

© 2012 New York Times

In the wake of being stripped of his seven Tour de France titles for doping, Lance Armstrong last week cut all official ties with Livestrong, the charity he founded 15 years ago while undergoing treatment for testicular cancer. On Nov. 4, he resigned from the organization's board of directors after previously stepping down as chairman of the board on Oct. 17. He has distanced himself from the charity to try to protect it from any damage caused by his doping controversy, said the new board chairman, Jeff Garvey, in a statement. "Lance Armstrong was instrumental in changing the way the world views people affected by cancer," Garvey said. "His devotion to serving survivors is unparalleled and for 15 years, he committed himself to that cause with all his heart." Garvey said the Armstrong family had donated nearly \$7 million to the foundation and that the organization under Armstrong had raised close to \$300 million to serve cancer survivors. Last month, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency made public its evidence in its doping case against Armstrong, saying he doped and encouraged his teammates to dope so they could help him win races. He was subsequently barred from Olympic sports for life and was stripped of all the cycling titles he won from August 1998 on.



Lance Armstrong sits during a news conference at the Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

Since then, Armstrong has spent several weeks in Hawaii, out of the public eye. On Saturday, though, he posted a photo on Twitter showing him at home in Austin, Texas. He is lounging on a couch with his seven yellow Tour jerseys framed on the wall in the background. In the post, he said, "Back in Austin and just layin' around." Nearly 300,000 people had viewed his photo as of Monday morning, with many posting negative comments on the page. "Lance, you have no moral conscious and it's obvious many of your followers don't either," said one person who went by the Twitter handle "irobot" who also posted that Armstrong needed "professional help." Another person posting under the name "Aumann" said: "An art thief enjoying his da Vincis."



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Gas rationing for New Jersey to end Tuesday

WINNIE HU

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New Jersey was the first to embrace 1970s-era gas rationing in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, and now it will be the first to jettison it. The rationing system – restricting gas sales to cars with even-numbered license plates on even days, and odd-numbered on odd days – will be discontinued at 6 a.m. Tuesday, Gov. Chris Christie announced Monday. The system was imposed in 12 New Jersey counties Nov. 3 and has been widely credited by municipal officials, gas station owners and drivers with cutting down lines and taking pressure off

a gas distribution network of ports and terminals that was badly damaged by the storm. A similar rationing system took effect Friday in New York City and Nassau and Suffolk counties on Long Island. Officials have not said how long the rationing will last. Kevin Roberts, a spokesman for Christie, said the rationing was no longer needed in New Jersey because “the power restoration and fuel delivery efforts of the past two weeks have allowed lines to subside, lessening the need for this type of rationing system.” He added, “Now is an appropriate time to end it.”



A police officer joins a group of men in pushing a van that ran out of fuel near a gas station in New York, Nov. 12, 2012. Gas rationing for New Jersey is to end today, Tuesday, November 13, 2012. (Michael Nagle/The New York Times)

NY governor to seek \$30B in federal disaster aid

MICHAEL VIRTANEN

Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP) — New York’s governor plans to request \$30 billion in U.S. aid to rebuild after Superstorm Sandy, which heavily damaged parts of New York City and Long Island. The state will seek a supplemental appropriation to cover infrastructure, repair and emergency costs beyond those normally covered by federal emergency aid, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Monday. “I’ve asked for 100 percent reimbursement,” said. Generally the Federal Emergency Man-

agement Agency will reimburse up to 75 percent of public costs, with the state and local authorities covering the remaining 25 percent. There have been cases, such as Hurricane Katrina, where the federal government has reimbursed up to 90 percent of costs. The plan to request federal aid, first reported Monday by The New York Times, would help cover the cost of improvements like a power grid meant to improve utilities’ ability to find and fix outages. It would also upgrade New York City’s fuel supply ca-

capacity to help prevent consumer shortages and bring new oil and gas pipelines from New England to reduce dependence on shipping the fuel.

The storm left more than 100 people dead across several states, most of them in New York and neighboring New Jersey. Last week, Cuomo said the storm would cost

New York state \$33 billion and he was counting on a commitment from the Obama administration for reimbursement for many public costs of rebuilding.

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New IRA faction claims Northern Ireland killing

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — A new Irish Republican Army faction in Northern Ireland claimed responsibility Monday for its first killing and defended the bloodshed as a necessary act of vengeance.

The group, a merger of factions that brands itself as simply the IRA, said in a statement to the Irish News in Belfast its members shot to death David Black this month because he worked as a guard at Northern Ireland's top-security Maghaberry prison.

About 40 members of IRA factions are imprisoned there. The inmates have protested for more than a year against a policy of strip-searching them in search of



The hat and gloves of murdered prison officer David Black is placed on his coffin during his funeral service at Molesworth Presbyterian Church in Cookstown, Northern Ireland, Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012. A new Irish Republican Army faction in Northern Ireland claimed responsibility Monday for its first killing and defended the bloodshed as a necessary act of vengeance.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

weapons, drugs and cell-phones. They have previously threatened to kill off-duty guards.

Black, 52, was shot as he drove to work on Nov. 1.

He had worked as a guard for three decades and expected to retire soon.

He was the first prison officer killed in Northern Ireland since 1993, the year

before the dominant anti-British paramilitary group, the Provisional IRA, began an open-ended truce that inspired Northern Ireland's peace process. The Provisionals renounced violence and disarmed in 2005.

The group that claimed Black's killing was formed in July by the merger of three anti-British splinter groups led by former Provisionals who still pursue violence in Northern Ireland. The merger represented an effort by breakaway IRA members to mount a more coherent campaign, given that most of their bombings and shootings fail because of faulty equipment or British intelligence tipoffs.

In the latest such episode, British Army experts dismantled a bomb Monday that had been found in the middle of a road near an elementary school in north Belfast. Police said the bomb had been attached to the underside of the intended victim's car but failed to detonate and instead fell off.

The new group's statement said it had "a responsibility to protect and defend" its imprisoned members. It described the Black killing as a direct response to "the degradation" of prison strip-searching. The three groups that now constitute the self-styled IRA faction are the Real IRA, Republican Action Against Drugs and Oglagh na hEireann, the Gaelic equivalent of "IRA." □



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Iran: Blogger died in police custody

ALI AKBAR DAREINI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's state prosecutor confirmed Monday that a jailed blogger died in police custody last week and that wounds were found on his body, the first official confirmation of his death while being held. The U.S. State Department and a press freedom group have called for investigation of the "suspicious death."

The prosecutor's statement came a day after Iran's parliament announced it would probe reports on the circumstances of Sattar Beheshti's death.

Prosecutor Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeji told reporters that Beheshti was detained Oct. 30 for alleged cybercrimes and taken to Evin prison in

north Tehran the next day. Beheshti was handed over to cyber police for interrogation the same day. He died Nov. 3.

"The coroner's office has provided a detailed report saying that signs of wounds were found in five places on this person's body, including foot, hand, back and one of his thighs, but no broken bones," the semiofficial Mehr news agency quoted Ejeji as saying.

Ejeji said a final report on the cause of Beheshti's death may take as long as 45 days to release. He said copy of a letter of complaint in Beheshti's name against his interrogator was found. The semiofficial ISNA news agency quoted Ejeji as saying that Beheshti charged in the letter that he was subject to "threats, insults and beatings." □

Gulf states recognize new Syrian opposition group

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council recognized the new broad-based Syrian opposition group Monday as the legitimate representatives of the Syrian people, the first formal endorsement of the opposition group that seeks to topple President Bashar Assad.

Syrian anti-government groups struck a deal Sunday after more than a week of meetings in Qatar. They were under intense international pressure to form a new opposition leadership that will include representatives from the country's disparate factions fighting to topple Assad's regime. The deal is backed by the U.S. and other Western countries.

The opposition has been deeply divided for months despite the relentless bloodshed in Syria that has left more than 36,000 people killed and repeated calls from their Western and Arab supporters to create a cohesive and representative leadership that could serve as a conduit for foreign aid. In its statement, the GCC said it will offer "support and endorsement to this entity to realize the aspirations and hopes of the Syrian people." The council said it hoped the new body will be a step toward quick political transfer of power and put an end to the bloodshed.

It called for Arab and international recognition of the Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces, the new body.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullatif al-Zayani said the Gulf states hope the opposition has taken "a step toward quick political transfer of power" in Syria.

Meanwhile, the president of the new coalition, Maath al-Khatib, and top opposition figure George Sabra flew to Cairo on the Qatari foreign minister's plane for meetings with Arab League Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby to push for recognition.

In the meeting with Elaraby, an official who attended the meeting said Qatar's foreign minister discussed replacing the Syrian regime's suspended membership status with the newly formed opposition coalition body. □



UAE Minister of Economy and other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Al Riyadh. The six-nation GCC recognized the new broad-based Syrian opposition group Monday as the legitimate representatives of the Syrian people.

(Photo)



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LatAm leaders call for review of US legal pot vote

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press
MEXICO CITY (AP) — A group of Latin American leaders declared Monday that votes by two U.S. states to legalize marijuana have important implications for efforts to quash drug smuggling, offering the first government reaction from a region increasingly frustrated with the U.S.-backed war on drugs.

The declaration by the leaders of Mexico, Belize, Honduras and Costa Rica did not explicitly say they were considering weakening their governments' efforts against marijuana

smuggling, but it strongly implied the votes last week in Colorado and Washington would make enforcement of marijuana bans more difficult. The four called for the Organization of American States to study the impact of the Colorado and Washington votes and said the United Nations' General Assembly should hold a special session on the prohibition of drugs by 2015 at the latest. Last week, the most influential adviser to Mexico's president-elect, who takes office Dec. 1, questioned how the country will enforce a ban on growing and smuggling a drug that is now legal under some

U.S. state laws. The Obama administration has yet to make clear how strongly it will enforce a federal ban on marijuana that is not affected by the Colorado and Washington votes.

"It has become necessary

President Felipe Calderon said after a meeting with Honduran President Porfirio Lobo, Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla and Prime Minister Dean Barrow of Belize.

Marijuana legalization by

campaign against the country's drug cartels. President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto has promised to shift Mexico's focus to preventing violence against ordinary citizens, although he says he intends to keep battling cartels and is opposed to drug legalization. Monday's statement by the four leaders "is an important indicator of the desire to engage in a more robust discussion of policy," said Eric Olson, associate director of the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

The call by the four presidents was welcomed by marijuana activists in the U.S. Forcing international review of drug policies was a stated goal of the campaigns for legalization in Colorado and Washington. "Marijuana prohibition in this country has been detrimental — but it's been absolutely catastrophic to our southern neighbors," said Dan Riffe, an analyst and lobbying for the Marijuana Policy Project, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group that largely financed the two campaigns. □



Honduras' President Porfirio Lobo, from left, Mexico's President Felipe Calderon, Costa Rica's President Laura Chinchilla and Belize' Prime Minister Dean Barrow pose for photos prior to a press conference in Mexico City, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012. (AP Photo/Alexandre Meneghini)

to analyze in depth the implications for public policy and health in our nations emerging from the state and local moves to allow the legal production, consumption and distribution of marijuana in some countries of our continent," Mexican

U.S. states is "a paradigm change on the part of those entities in respect to the current international system," Calderon said. Mexico has seen tens of thousands of people killed over the last six years during a militarized government

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Paraguay says Chile and Colombia ambassadors return to Asuncion

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Paraguay says the ambassadors of Chile and Colombia are returning to Asuncion. Chile's Cristian Maquieira and Colombia's Jorge Alberto Barrantes were called home for consultations by their governments following the ouster of former President Fernando Lugo on June 22.

Paraguay's Foreign Ministry tells the Associated Press that the Chilean and Colombian diplomats sent formal written statements saying they will go back to their

posts in Asuncion soon.

Chile and Colombia are the first countries of the Union of South American Nations to reestablish diplomatic ties with Paraguay. Ambassadors from several countries including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay were also called home after Lugo was dismissed by Congress.

The Unasur and Mercosur regional blocs suspended Paraguay's membership until it holds presidential elections on April 21, 2013. □



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Death toll in Kenya police ambush deaths at least 34

TOM ODULA

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Suspected cattle thieves hid on a high hill and ambushed and killed at least 34 police officers pursuing them over the weekend in northwestern Kenya, a gruesome and powerful attack on government security forces that an official said Monday highlights the need for more reforms in the police force.

Samuel Letipila, who rep-

resents the affected area in the local council, said 34 bodies of police officers and reserves had been recovered from the Baragoi region of northwestern Kenya. Seven officers still missing, he said.

The police were killed over the weekend after being ambushed by bandits from the Turkana region who are suspected to have stolen another tribe's cattle.

The region where the killings took place, the Suguta

Valley, is far removed from modern society. Roads and communications are bad, and few security officers are stationed there. Since Friday Kenya has been holding public interviews to select an official for the newly formed position of the Inspector General, as part of police reforms introduced by a new constitution that Kenya adopted in 2010.

Civil society organizations and human rights group

have for decades been advocating for the independence of the police force, which has long been used by those in power to quash opposition political members. Police officers have become notoriously corrupt because of poor pay and lack of independent oversight of their conduct.

The impetus to conduct the reforms in the police force came from international pressure after Kenya's post-election violence in 2007-08. More than 1,000 people were killed and 600,000 displaced after President Mwai Kibaki was declared the winner over opposition candidate Raila Odinga in a vote observers said was flawed.

A 2008 government report said one of the reasons violence flared was the lack of trust in public institutions, including the police, which was seen as taking sides in the conflict.

The weekend slaughter — and the high-powered guns the tribesmen apparently used in the attack — raises concerns that Kenyan officials will not be able to stop violence that breaks out during the country's next presidential election in March.

Police spokesman Eric Kiraithe, who was one of the candidates interviewed Monday for the Inspector General's position, spoke candidly for the first time about the problem bedeviling Kenya's police force. □

South Africa:

Thieves steal \$2M worth of art

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Thieves posing as eager art students with their teacher stole more than \$2 million worth of paintings from a museum in South Africa's capital in a daring armed robbery, authorities said Monday.

The theft Sunday at the Pretoria Art Museum saw robbers calmly pay \$2.25 apiece for tickets and ask a curator to show them specific paintings at the gallery before they pulled out pistols and forced all others to the ground, officials said. They tied up the curator and others before collecting the paintings they previously asked about, official said.

The robbers favored oil paintings in their theft, grabbing a 1931 painting by famous South African artist Irma Stern of brightly colored sailboats waiting against a pier, city spokesman Pieter de Necker said. Other works stolen included a gouache drawing of an eland and bird by South African landscape artist J.H. Pierneef, a pastel-toned

street scene by Gerard Sekoto, a thick-stroked oil painting of a chief by Hugo Naude and a picture of a cat near a vase full of pe-



Police in South Africa said Monday that robbers stole more than \$2 million worth of art including JH Pierneef's "Eland and Bird" from an exhibit near the country's capital.

(AP Photo/The City of Tshwane)

tunias by Maggie Laubser. The robbers, though apparently having done their homework, left behind another oil painting by Stern showing two musicians because they were not able to fit the painting inside their getaway car, a silver sedan, de Necker said. The thieves left as private security guards at the museum drew close to them, he said.

The museum closed Mon-

day for the week and removed its most valuable remaining possessions for safekeeping, the city spokesman said. Authori-

ties say they now plan to increase security to prevent thefts there. However, the video surveillance cameras at the museum had stopped working on Thursday, de Necker said. South African authorities had been alerted in case the thieves tried to take the art work outside of the country, said Lt. Col. Katlego Mogale, a spokeswoman for the South African Police Service. □

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Merkel insists on austerity despite protests

ARRY HATTON
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — German Chancellor Angela Merkel took her fiscal discipline message to bailed-out Portugal on Monday, tolerating Nazi jibes from a small group of protesters as she advocated the benefits of austerity and economic reforms.

As in her recent trips to bailed-out Greece and debt-stricken Spain, demonstrators unhappy about tax hikes and pay cuts devised to improve public finances turned their anger on the German leader. Portugal needed a €78 billion (\$99 billion) rescue last year when it was engulfed by the eurozone's debt crisis, and living standards have dropped sharply.

A protest march in Lisbon featured dummies with Merkel's face and with T-shirts saying "Adolf Merkel" and including a swastika. Banners said "Merkel Nazi, Go Away!" and, in German, "Merkel Raus" (Merkel Out).

"I think it's wrong what they are doing," said Luis Miguel, an actor who was carrying puppets representing Merkel and Portuguese Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho.

"It's not right what they are taking from the people."

Merkel told a news conference with Passos Coelho she was "not particularly bothered" by the Nazi references, saying people had a right to express their views.

Germany is the eurozone's biggest and strongest economy and contributes more than the other

16 members to bailouts for financially troubled members. In return, it has demanded that rescued eurozone members adopt spending cuts and enact reforms that take away long-standing workers' entitlements in order to improve competitiveness. That has made Merkel a lightning rod for public discontent.

Reactions to Merkel's visit

illustrated the split in Europe over how to handle the continent's debt crisis. Merkel and the Portugal's center-right government insist austerity policies must continue. Portugal's main opposition Socialist Party, like French president Francois Hollande, wants a softer emphasis on cuts and greater focus on measures to improve growth. □



Demonstrators hold banners protesting the visit to Portugal of German Chancellor Angela Merkel Monday, Nov. 12 2012, in Porto, Portugal. Banner reads in German 'Merkel is deadly'.

(AP Photo/Paulo Duarte)

Creditors say give Greece 2 more years

BERLIN (AP) — Greece's international creditors are proposing granting the country two more years to meet its debt reduction targets as the country enters its sixth consecutive year of recession, according to a draft document obtained by The Associated Press Monday. But the draft memorandum of understanding lacked crucial specifics on how much additional assistance the country would need and how that shortfall should be addressed, just as the finance ministers from the 17 countries that use the euro gathered in Brussels to discuss Greece's situation. The country's so-called "troika" of creditors — the European Central Bank, the European Commission and the International Monetary Fund — has already pledged €240 billion (\$305 billion) in bailout loans to keep Greece afloat while Athens implements reforms and austerity measures to get its finances in order.

Greece is waiting for the next €31.5 billion (\$40 billion) installment of its bailout loan before it faces a bond repayment Friday that it may not be able to afford without the tranche, and it has passed a series of reforms this week to meet the conditions of the loan. But in recent months, it has become clear that country's bailout program is way off track, and deep disagreements persist among its creditors on how to right it. The main aim of the bailout program is to get Greece back to a point where it no longer relies on international aid and can raise money on the debt markets. □

Block on Italy quake aid called 'shameful'

BRUSSELS (AP) — The head of the European Parliament on Monday decried as shameful the delay by some countries in approving €670 million (\$850.5 million) to help Italy's Emilia Romagna region recover from this year's back-to-back earthquakes. European Parliament President Martin Schulz said that EU members who have held

up talks on the approval of the EU's 2013 budget, including the quake funds, "should feel ashamed." After talks with Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti over the weekend, Schulz said some EU countries were taking the earthquake aid "hostage" to get a more favorable deal from the budget negotiations. Twenty-four people died

in two temblors that struck the agricultural and industrial region in May. EU budget talks resume Tuesday. Separately, Italy's government announced Monday evening that its request for €18 million (\$23 million) in solidarity funds to help the regions of Tuscany and Liguria, hard hit by flooding in 2011, had been approved by the European Commis-

sion.

The funds will help finance repair of damage to electrical, water and sewage systems and infrastructure, as well as road repairs. The funds will also be used to shore up buildings left in precarious condition by the floods. The Cinque Terre tourist towns in Liguria were especially damaged by the floodwaters. □



Romar Trading and Castello Banfi celebrate fine Italian wine and food!

PALM BEACH – Romar Trading recently teamed up with Castello Banfi to host an elegant wine and food pairing dinner, celebrating fine Italian cuisine and wine at Hostaria da Vittorio.

Master Italian Chef Vittorio Muscariello prepared an exquisite five-course meal, with each dish complimented perfectly by its matching Banfi wine. To start off the dinner, guests were served Tuscan inspired Crostini, with cucumbers, tomatoes, celery, carrots, basil, anchovies and extra virgin olive oil, which was paired with the Banfi Brut. The Principessa Gavi Banfi provided the perfect counterpoint to the brininess of the following course: fresh mussels and clams sautéed with fresh garlic, extra virgin olive oil and parsley. The next dish presented a baked breast of duck, with garlic, extra virgin olive oil, sage and rosemary, served with haricots verts and baked potatoes, accompanied by the Colvecchio Syrah Banfi. Holding up well against the final Main Course, a Brunello di Montalcino Banfi was paired with veal Ossobuco, braised in white wine with fresh herbs and spices, and a black truffle risotto. Ending the evening on a sweet note, the dessert presented a baked tart, served with pears, chocolate and Chantilly cream, complimented by the Rosa Regale Banfi.

The evening's guest of honor, Raymond Rivera, Export Manager for Castello Banfi, together with Romar Trading's wine artist Clive Faustin, had the pleasure of presenting each wine that was served, entertaining and also educating every-

one about Castello Banfi. In 1978 John and Harry Mariani, owners of the U.S. wine importer Banfi Vintners, established the award winning vineyard estate and winery Castello Banfi in the Brunello region of Tuscany. A constellation of single vineyards located on ideal sites cover about one third of the 7,100 acre estate. The remaining land consists of bucolic meadows, olive and plum groves, and woodland. Central to the property is a medieval castle that functions as a hospitality center, hosting visitors at a full service restaurant, enoteca and mu-

naissance in the art of Italian winemaking. Photos show everyone enjoying a delightful evening of Tuscan food and wine,



seum dedicated to the history of glass and its relation to wine. Together with its sister estates in Piedmont, Vigne Regali and Principessa Gavia, it has become recognized the world over for its dedication to excellence and sparking a re-



hosted by Romar Trading and Castello Banfi at Hostaria da Vittorio. □



At Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa:

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By offering a unique blend of beach-life and gourmet cuisine, spa pampering, and high-tech amenities, the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa creates the perfect backdrop against which guests quiet their minds and de-stress.

Recently, the tropical garden terrace has been repositioned as Ike's Bistro, serving a modern twist on Mediterranean cuisine under the guidance of the full-of-surprises Chef Ever De Pena. Just 26 years of age, the chef has nevertheless been cooking for the past 11 years. Born and raised in Aruba he entered the apprenticeship program at the local vocational high school at the age of 15, and for five years combined school and hands-on training, in some of Aruba's finest restaurants under the watchful eye of the island's top chefs. While the first dish he ever prepared as a young man was Pasta

Primavera, he today deftly composes beautiful dishes with subtle and complex flavors, under-promising and over-delivering, on taste and on presentation, each time!

Since he recently joined the culinary team at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, Ike's Bistro now boasts a delicious menu of the chef's specialties. While Mediterranean at heart,

avocado. The Scallops and Corn serve the delicate grilled giant scallop on a bed of slightly-sweet corn puree, drizzled with orange vinaigrette. Plentiful salads take on Mediterranean classics such as the Caprese by pairing buffalo Mozzarella with tomato, orange, basil, and basil mousse. The chef's Caribbean Chowder is a velvety, rich seafood cream flavored with



it is inspired by Caribbean ingredients and the chef's passion for avant-guard fusion ideas. Among appetizers, the most-delicious Ceviche and Avocado presents a ying & yang marriage of fresh grouper and seafood marinated in zesty lemon, and paired with sweet mango and creamy

Pernod, crunchy onions, carrots and celery, and fragrant basil. And it is hands-down, the best soup you'll ever have. His homemade Portobello Mushroom Ravioli is a giant pocket, swimming in a flavorful chardonnay, butter, basil and shaved parmesan puddle. You could probably eat



fifteen, but two is just right. Among entrees, Ike's Bistro lists a solid repertory including the catch of the day, Tuna, Sea bass, Shrimp, Mussels, Tenderloin, Sirloin, Veal, Chicken and Steak & Shrimp. Very notable are the Grilled Tuna with stewed cherry tomatoes and avocado salad, flavored with a chardonnay, balsamic thyme reduction and the Sliced Sirloin with bleu cheese potatoes,

de Pena, paying homage to the late resort founder, award-winning hotelier Ike Cohen. Ike's passion for food introduced the island of Aruba to gourmet cooking as early as the 60s when he created the Talk of the Town restaurant and later, in the 70s when he conceived the French Steak House, a bastion of culinary flair at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa. With seating in the garden ter-

Beauty On The Beach

Laura Viscomi

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba. She is staying at the Radisson Beach Resort. What she loves most of Aruba is the weather and the beach.

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wilted greens, over an aromatic thyme sauce. Those with room for dessert will be gratified to find Chocolate Temptations, a chocolate three-way treat, and an Orange Catalana, as good as the ones served in Barcelona. The Passion Fruit Parfait and Berries, and the Mini Treats round up the menu, created for the garden terrace by Chef Ever

De Pena. The chef will come to your table to consult you about likes and dislikes and will tailor the meal to your palate! □

Aruba's Deanna Pinilla shines at Miss Meso America Pageant!



ORANJESTAD – Deanna Pinilla, always beautiful during her presentations, achieved various titles during the Miss Meso America pageant, which took place in El Salvador, celebrating its 20th anniversary of existence. Some of the titles she won were the Best National Costume and Miss Elegance. Also she was amongst the semifinalists

of the pageant. Of the 13 ladies that participated, Miss Spain was the absolute winner and first finalist went to Miss Puerto Rico. The title of "Princesa" went to Miss Cuba. GLW Foundation thanks all who helped Deanna with her preparation to represent Aruba abroad and also to her parents for their confidence bestowed. □



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At Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino:

Edwin Oudshoorn shoots on Aruba for WIT Magazine!

Dutch designer Edwin Oudshoorn was in Aruba recently, staying at the Renaissance Aruba Resort for a photo shoot on their fabulous private island for WIT Magazine (bridal magazine).

Oudshoorn graduated at the Design Academy Arnhem in 2004 and started presenting his collection in Amsterdam, the "Gemeente Museum" in Den Haag, "Teylers Museum" in Haarlem and "Musée de la Vie Romantique" in Paris during couture fashion week.

After having some leisure time on the private island of the Renaissance Aruba Resort he fell in love with the place and hired local talents to capture the beautiful wedding setting on the private island. Together with his assistant



Nick Lynch, Oudshoorn spent some time at the Spa Cove on Renaissance Island preparing for the

wedding shoot. Local models lent their stunning talents for this fantastic photo shoot. □



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Driftwood owner Herby

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In this Feb. 22, 2012, file photo, then-New York Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni gestures in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in New York. Associated Press

Lakers hire Mike D'Antoni as new coach

GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers hired Mike D'Antoni late Sunday night, signing the former coach of the Suns and Knicks to replace Mike Brown.

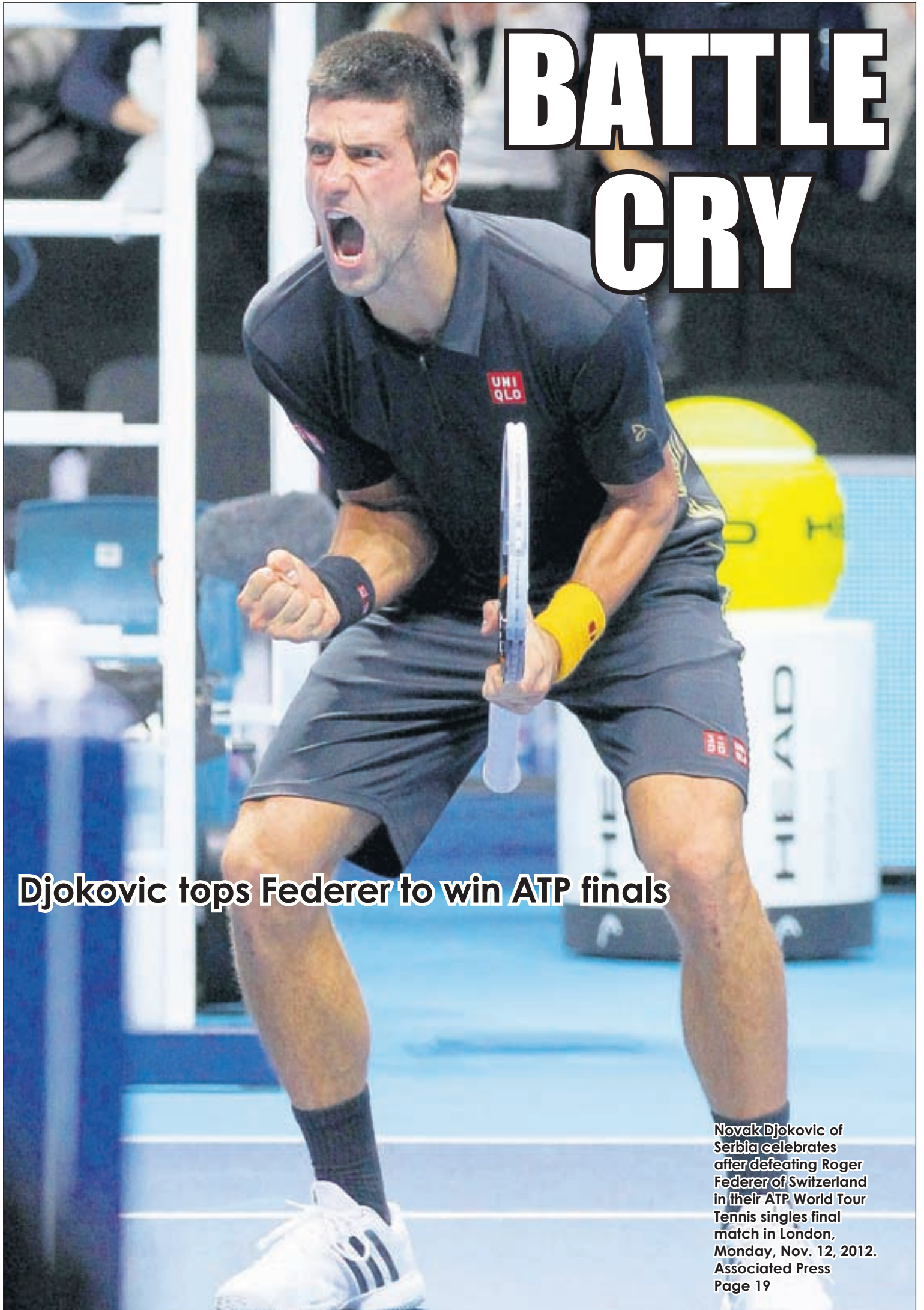
The Lakers and D'Antoni's agent, Warren LeGarie, confirmed the deal two days after the Lakers fired Brown five games into the season.

D'Antoni agreed to a three-year deal with a team option for a fourth season.

D'Antoni got the high-profile job running the 16-time NBA champions only after the club's negotiations broke down with former Lakers coach Phil Jackson. The 11-time NBA champion coach met with Lakers owners Jerry and Jim Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak on Saturday to discuss a return for a third stint on Los Angeles' bench.

The Lakers' top brass instead went with D'Antoni, who coached Lakers point guard Steve Nash during five seasons in Phoenix.

Continued on page 20



BATTLE CRY

Djokovic tops Federer to win ATP finals

Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland in their ATP World Tour Tennis singles final match in London, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012. Associated Press Page 19

McIlroy, Woods head PGA Tour ballot

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods were among five players nominated for the PGA Tour player of the year. Players have until the end of the month to vote on the awards.

McIlroy is the clear favorite after leading the tour with four wins, including an eight-shot victory at the PGA Championship. He also won the Vardon Trophy and the money title. Woods won three times. Also on the ballot Monday are FedEx Cup champion Brandt Snedeker, Masters champion Bubba Watson and Jason Dufner. The five candidates for rookie of the year are John Huh, Jonas Blixt, Charlie Beljan, Ted Potter Jr. and Bud Cauley, the only rookie not to win this year. Huh is favored as the only rookie who qualified for the Tour Championship. □

Mike Trout unanimous AL Rookie of the Year

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels became the youngest AL Rookie of the Year, a unanimous winner Monday after a season that put him in contention for the MVP award, too.

The 21-year-old center fielder hit .326 with 30 homers and 83 RBIs following his call-up from the minor leagues in late April.

Trout received all 28 first-place votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America, becoming the eighth unanimous AL pick and the first since Tampa Bay's Evan Longoria in 2008.

Detroit second baseman Lou Whitaker had been the youngest AL winner in 1978, but he was 2 months, 26 days older than Trout when



In this Aug. 31, 2012, file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout smiles after scoring against the Seattle Mariners during a baseball game in Seattle. Trout unanimously won the American League Rookie of the Year Monday, Nov. 12.

Associated Press

he took home the award. Trout received the maximum 140 points. Oakland outfielder Yoenis Cespedes was second with 63, followed by Texas pitcher Yu Darvish (46), who joined Trout as the only players

listed on every ballot. In addition to Trout and Longoria, the only other unanimous AL winners were Nomar Garciaparra, Derek Jeter, Tim Salmon, Sandy Alomar Jr., Mark McGwire and Carlton Fisk. □

Felix, Eaton win 2012 Jesse Owens Award

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Sports Writer

Even if Ashton Eaton owns the world record and an Olympic gold medal in the decathlon — accomplishments that helped him join four-time recipient Allyson Felix as a 2012 Jesse Owens Award winner Monday — he is convinced he is not nearly as good as he could be.

"I can improve in all of my events," Eaton said, "and I don't know by how much." The 24-year-old Eaton, of Eugene, Oregon, was asked where he can get better the most. He competes, after all, in 10 different disciplines.

He began his reply by mentioning the shot put. Then he added: "The discus is something I haven't figured out yet. The javelin is something I haven't figured out yet. The pole vault — there still is a steep learning curve. Maybe the hurdles, as well."

Well, then. Look out, decathletes. As it is, Eaton broke the world record in June at the U.S. Olympic



This Aug. 9, 2012 file photo shows Ashton Eaton, of the United States, going for the finish line in a 110-meter hurdles heat in the decathlon during the athletics in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

Associated Press

trials, finishing with 9,039 points to eclipse Roman Sebrle's 11-year-old mark by 13 points.

The American followed that up at the London Games by taking the title, combining with runner-up Trey Hardee to give the United States its

first 1-2 finish in the Olympic decathlon since 1956. Eaton opened up by breaking Bill Toomey's 44-year-old Olympic record in the decathlon 100-meter dash; he also scored the most points in the long jump and 400 meters.

Running has long been Eaton's forte, and he mentioned a new goal Monday: being part of a championship team in the 4x400-meter relay.

Felix, of Santa Clarita, California, also is open to new challenges and changing events.

The first four-time Owens award winner as the top track and field athlete in the U.S., she won the 200 meters at the London Games for her first individual Olympic gold, and also had victories in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

She's gone back and forth about whether to seek success in the individual 400, and she said Monday she expects to be willing to enter the longer event when the 2016 Rio Olympics roll around.

"I'm definitely open to it more," the 26-year-old Felix said.

"As I get older, the 400 may suit me more."

USA Track and Field will present Eaton and Felix their awards Dec. 1 in Daytona Beach, Florida. □

MLS Roundup Galaxy beat Sounders 3-0 in 1st leg of West final



Los Angeles Galaxy's Robbie Keane celebrates his goal against the Seattle Sounders during the first half of an MLS Western Conference final soccer game in Carson, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012.

Associated Press

CARSON, California (AP)

— Robbie Keane scored two goals and set up another as the Los Angeles Galaxy beat the Seattle Sounders 3-0 on Sunday to take a commanding lead in the first leg of the Major League Soccer Western Conference finals.

Mike Magee added the other goal for defending champion Los Angeles, which will head to Seattle next Sunday in prime position to earn its third MLS Cup appearance in four years.

If Los Angeles survives and the Houston Dynamo wraps up the Eastern Conference finals after beating D.C. United 3-1 in the first leg earlier Sunday, the MLS Cup would be a rematch of last season's game, which David Beckham and the Galaxy won at Home Depot Center.

Andre Hainault, Will Bruin and Kofi Sarkodie each scored second-half goals at Houston to give the Dynamo the win over United. Nick DeLeon scored for United in the 27th minute.

The win gives Houston a two-goal aggregate lead heading into next Sunday's decisive match at RFK Stadium in Washington. □

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Top-ranked Djokovic tops Federer to win ATP finals

CHRIS LEHOURITES

AP Sports Writer

LONDON (AP) — Even when Roger Federer had the lead, Novak Djokovic had the answers.

The top-ranked Serb recovered from early breaks in both sets and beat Federer 7-6 (6), 7-5 Monday in the championship match at the ATP finals.

Federer broke Djokovic's serve to take a quick 2-0 lead in the first set, and then again to open to the second set, but both times the world's No. 1 player rebounded to get back into the match.

"It's not the first time that Roger starts against me so well," Djokovic said. "I've experienced before his aggressivity, really trying to put his mark on the match. It's what he's done again." Federer indeed started well, winning the opening nine points and 12 of the first 14 to take a 3-0 lead. He then won the first point of the fourth game, but Djokovic finally held his serve — and soon broke back.

In the ninth game, Djokovic broke again to serve for the set at 5-4, but Federer evened the score and forced the tiebreaker.

"Maybe a bit of regret because I had the lead twice

first before him," said Federer, the two-time defending champion. "At the end of the day, that doesn't matter. You have to get over the finish line in the set and then obviously at the match. He was better at that today."

The crowd at the O2 Arena was decidedly in Federer's favor, but they cheered loudly throughout the match as both made spectacular shots — including a match-ending backhand passing winner from Djokovic.

"It's best way to finish the match, I guess, with a passing shot, one of my favorite shots," Djokovic said. "He came in. That was the only space left for me to make a passing shot, and I made it."

The highlight for Federer came in the tiebreaker with Djokovic holding his second set point.

Djokovic hit a forehand drop shot with Federer up at the net. The ball drifted past the second-ranked Swiss, but he chased it down and whacked a forehand winner to even the score at 6-6.

Two points later, however, and Djokovic was the one celebrating, ending the set with a forehand winner on his third set point.

To start the second set, Federer broke Djokovic for the third time and then held all the way to 5-3. A game later and serving for the set, Federer had two set points but he put a forehand wide and a then forehand into the net.

Two more Federer mistakes put Djokovic back on serve and back on track for the title. The Serb closed it out with the backhand passing winner to improve his head-to-head record against Federer to 3-2 this year, and 13-16 overall.

"I shouldn't have been broken as often as I was broken today," said Federer, who lost his serve twice in each set. "But then again, that obviously has something to do with Novak, as well."

Federer finished the match with 30 winners, 11 more than Djokovic.

But he also had 42 unforced errors — many of them coming from his often dominant forehand — while Djokovic had only 28. "Obviously I was going to try to go after my shots and not just hand it to him. That's just how I play tennis," Federer said. "If I have 80 errors and I win the match, I don't care. I really don't."

It was Djokovic's second



Novak Djokovic of Serbia holds up the ATP World Tour Tennis singles trophy after defeating Roger Federer of Switzerland after the final in London, Monday, Nov. 12, 2012.

Associated Press

victory at the year-end tournament for the top eight players in the world. He also won in 2008, when the tournament was in Shanghai.

Federer, who is now 15-3 in Britain this year after winning his seventh Wimbledon title and the Olympic silver medal, had been looking for his record sev-

enth title.

And he came close to winning it.

Both players finished the match winning 58 percent of their service points and 42 percent of their return points.

Overall, Djokovic only won one more point in the match, getting 96 to Federer's 95. □



In this Friday, Oct. 26, 2012 file photo, Lindsey Vonn, of the United States, left, speaks with a trainer during a course inspection on the glacier of Soelden, in Austria.

Associated Press

Vonn admitted to hospital with undisclosed illness

VAIL, Colorado (AP) —

Lindsey Vonn has been admitted to a hospital in Vail with an undisclosed illness. Her spokesman, Lewis Kay, had no other updates on the U.S. skier's condition Monday.

The four-time World Cup overall champion skipped a slalom competition in Fin-

land last weekend to prepare for upcoming races in Aspen.

She also had a promotional event lined up for last Friday in Vail, but had to cancel because she was sick. Vonn recently requested to compete in a men's downhill race, only to be rejected by the International Ski

Federation.

She was hoping to enter the men's race on Nov. 24 at Lake Louise, Alberta. Had she been allowed to compete against the men, Vonn would've missed the two races in Aspen because they take place the same weekend. □

NBA Roundup

Grizzlies beat Heat 104-86 for 5th straight win



Memphis Grizzlies' Rudy Gay (22) drives past Miami Heat's Rashard Lewis during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn., Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012. The Grizzlies won 104-86.

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Reserve Wayne Ellington had career bests with seven 3-pointers and 25 points, leading the Memphis Grizzlies over the Miami Heat 104-86 on Sunday for their fifth straight win and the best start in franchise history.

The Grizzlies (5-1) snapped Miami's four-game winning streak while topping their 4-1 start in 2000-01 — the franchise's last season in Vancouver. They also extended their own team-record home winning streak

to 14 dating to last season. Rudy Gay added 21 points and Zach Randolph had his sixth double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds for Memphis. Mike Conley had 18 points and nine assists, while Marc Gasol added 10 rebounds and six assists. Chris Bosh scored 22 points and LeBron James had 20 for Miami. Dwyane Wade came in averaging 20.4 points but was held to eight in his first game back after missing Friday night's win at Atlanta with a cold. Memphis never trailed and

the Heat managed to tie it only twice, the last at 14-all.

LAKERS 103, KINGS 90

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dwight Howard had 23 points and 18 rebounds, Kobe Bryant scored 20 and Los Angeles warmed up for a possible return by Phil Jackson with a win over Sacramento.

Lame-duck interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff called the shots for the second straight game following the firing of Mike Brown on Friday with the team off to a 1-4 start — their worst in 19 years. They throttled Golden State 101-77 at Staples Center several hours after the change.

Lakers executive vice president Jim Buss and general manager Mitch Kupchak remain in negotiations with Jackson, whom they are trying to coax out of retirement.

Jimmer Fredette scored 18, and Jason Thompson had 15 points and 10 assists for the Kings.

THUNDER 106, CAVALIERS 91

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook banked in a half-court shot during a rough-and-tumble 27-point outing and Kevin Durant added 26 points to lead Oklahoma City over Cleve-

land.

Kyrie Irving led the Cavs with 20 points, Alonzo Gee had 18 points and Daniel Gibson. Irving hit back-to-back 3-pointers after Oklahoma City had taken a 63-50 lead midway through the third quarter and his driving layups on consecutive possessions got Cleveland within 67-65 with 3:42 to go in the period.

The Thunder never relinquished the lead, though, with Kendrick Perkins scoring inside on a basket interference call before Durant's two-handed slam. Then Westbrook took over.

NETS 82, MAGIC 74

NEW YORK (AP) — Brook Lopez scored 20 points, Kris Humphries added 14 points and 21 rebounds, and Brooklyn beat Orlando to complete a home-and-home sweep.

Deron Williams finished with 17 points, seven rebounds, seven assists and a couple key plays down the stretch after what appeared to be another blowout turned into a close game. The Nets beat the Magic 107-68 at Orlando on Friday and jumped out to an early 20-point lead in this one.

But after losing a 22-point

lead at home against Minnesota on Monday, Brooklyn almost coughed up another huge cushion, letting Orlando get within five in the final 2 minutes.

Glen Davis had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, who have dropped four in a row.

CLIPPERS 89, HAWKS 76

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Blake Griffin scored 16 points, and Chris Paul had 15 points and eight assists to lead Los Angeles to a win over Atlanta. Jamal Crawford had 11 points after coming in with a team-high 21.8 average — tops among the league's reserves. Fifth-year center DeAndre Jordan, coming off the first back-to-back 20-point games of his NBA career, finished with eight points. Josh Smith had a team-high 13 points for the Hawks, who shot 41.7 percent from the field in the opener of a four-game road trip. Atlanta also committed 22 turnovers that led to 24 points for the Clippers. In other NBA games it was Brooklyn 82, Orlando 74; L.A. Clippers 89, Atlanta 76; Memphis 104, Miami 86; Oklahoma City 106, Cleveland 91; and L.A. Lakers 103, Sacramento 90. □

Mike Dantoni

Continued from page 17

Nash won two MVP awards while running D'Antoni's signature up-tempo offense for the coach's final four seasons, when they won at least 54 games each season and reached two Western Conference finals. D'Antoni then coached New York for the past four seasons, resigning last March after a largely unsuccessful tenure featuring just one playoff appearance and no postseason victories.

D'Antoni also coached the Denver Nuggets during the lockout-shortened 1998-99 season.

Nash and Kobe Bryant both have expressed enthusiasm about the prospect of playing for D'Antoni, although



In this Feb. 22, 2012, file photo, then-New York Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni gestures in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks in New York.

Associated Press

Bryant also campaigned eagerly for Jackson. Bryant idolized D'Antoni while growing up in Italy, where D'Antoni was a star player for Olimpia Milano in the Italian pro league.

D'Antoni underwent knee replacement surgery earli-

er this month and could be limited in his mobility and travel for the first few weeks of his tenure in Los Angeles, although the Lakers likely won't announce specifics until later in the week. Jackson won five titles and reached seven NBA finals

during two stints totaling 11 seasons with Los Angeles. He walked away from the club 18 months ago after a second-round playoff sweep by Dallas, and Brown led Los Angeles to a 41-25 mark and another second-round playoff defeat last summer.

The Lakers traded for Nash and Dwight Howard, setting up a season of enormous expectations for Brown — but the Lakers struggled to learn his new, Princeton-influenced offense while playing mediocre defense.

After the Lakers stumbled out of the gate while Howard and Bryant missed preseason games to preserve their health, Nash incurred a small fracture in his leg during the Lakers' second regular-season game, keeping him out of the line-

up for their past five games and for at least another week. The Lakers reached a deal with D'Antoni several hours after they beat Sacramento 103-90 for their second straight win under interim coach Bernie Bickerstaff.

The Lakers have improved to 3-4 after following up their winless preseason with four losses in their first five regular-season games, the club's worst start since 1993.

D'Antoni's reputation as an innovative coach wasn't helped by his tenure in New York, although he took over a moribund franchise and eventually returned it to respectability.

Despite his reputation for offensive acumen, D'Antoni's NBA teams typically have played fairly solid defense, statistically speaking. □

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Wild race blows championship open for Keselowski

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Arizona (AP) —

A chaotic race at Phoenix blew NASCAR's championship fight wide open Sunday, moving Brad Keselowski to the brink of a first Sprint Cup title for himself and team owner Roger Penske.

Keselowski entered Sunday's race at Phoenix International Raceway trailing five-time champion Jimmie Johnson by seven points and had the better car all day. And moments after Keselowski raced his way into the lead, a blown tire caused Johnson to crash and take his battered car to the garage for repairs.

"I wanted to take the points lead by winning a race and not relying on a failure," Keselowski said.

It was just the beginning of the drama in the most chaotic race of the year.

One many fans will likely call the best of the season. Perhaps for all the wrong reasons, and that's what had Keselowski so upset.

"I'm more just disappointed in the quality of racing that we saw," he said. "I thought it was absolutely ridiculous, and I was ashamed to be a part of it."

Kevin Harvick snapped a 44-race losing streak by beating Kyle Busch on a pair of late restarts, and crossing the finish line ahead of a melee that broke out because NASCAR failed to throw a final caution flag for an oil spill on the track.

It was the final exclamation point in a sequence that included Jeff Gordon slowing his car on the track to wait for Clint Bowyer so he could intentionally wreck him as retaliation for several weeks of on-track contact between the two.

It led to a full brawl inside

the garage between the crews for the two drivers, with Bowyer sprinting from his car to join the fracas. He was held back by NASCAR officials from entering Gordon's hauler.

"It's pretty embarrassing," Bowyer said. "For a four-time champion, and what I consider one of the best this sport's ever seen to act like this is pretty ridiculous." Both drivers and their crew chiefs were called to the NASCAR hauler for a meeting with series officials, and police officers stood outside on guard.

Gordon said he's had problems with Bowyer all season and had reached his limit.

"Things just got escalated over the year, and I'd just had it," he said. "Clint has run into me numerous times, wrecked me, and he got into me on the back straightaway and pretty much ruined our day. I've had it, fed up with it and I got him back."

He said he didn't know what penalties might be coming from NASCAR.

"They've got to do what they've got to do, and I guess I had to do what," he said.

NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said the situation would be looked at further this week.

"That was surely a shame," he said. "We'll continue to try to get everybody back calm down and back to a working situation."

But Keselowski was livid, questioning the double-standard a week after he was criticized for racing hard on the final restarts against Johnson last week at Texas.

He could have wrecked Johnson for the victory, and three years ago he

might have done just that. But Keselowski was only aggressive — yet clean — and even after losing the race was condemned by some of his fellow competitors.

Three-time champion Tony Stewart said Keselowski had "a death wish" and Kyle Busch felt some drivers wouldn't give Keselowski a break on the track because he raced Johnson too hard on the last restart. "It's the double standard that I spent a whole week being bashed by a half-dozen drivers about racing hard at Texas and how I'm out of control and have a death wish," he



Kevin Harvick laughs as he tries to avoid being sprayed while celebrating in victory lane with his pit crew after his win at the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race win at Phoenix International Raceway, Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012, in Avondale, Ariz.

Associated Press

said. "These guys just tried should be ashamed. It's to kill each other ... they embarrassing." □

Jeff Gordon fined \$100K and docked 25 points

JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina

(AP) — Four-Time NASCAR

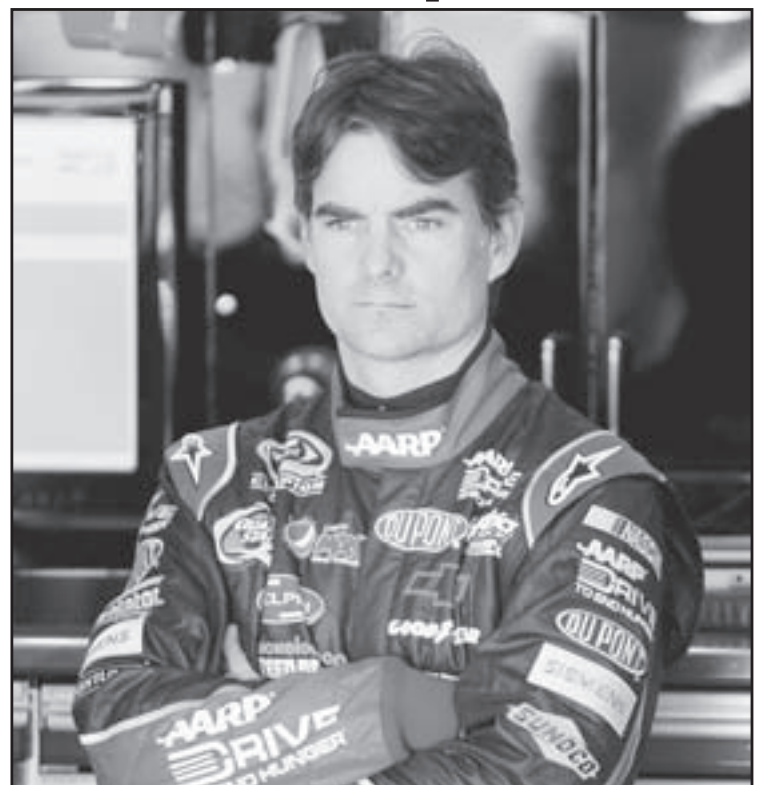
champion Jeff Gordon has been fined \$100,000 and docked 25 points for intentionally wrecking Clint Bowyer at Phoenix International Raceway.

Gordon was also placed on probation Monday through Dec. 31. But he avoided suspension for his actions in Sunday's race, which triggered a fight in the garage area between his crew and Bowyer's crew.

Team owner Rick Hendrick was also docked 25 car owner points, and crew chief Alan Gustafson was placed on probation through the end of the year.

Bowyer crew chief Brian Pattie was fined \$25,000 and placed on probation through the end of the year.

Brad Keselowski was fined



In this Oct. 12, 2012 file photo, Jeff Gordon waits before practice for the NASCAR Bank of America 500 Sprint Cup series auto race in Concord, N.C.

Associated Press

\$25,000 and placed on probation for having an electronic device inside

the car — presumably the phone he used to tweet during a red flag period. □

British medical journal slams Roche on Tamiflu

MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — A leading British medical journal is asking the drug maker Roche to release all its data on Tamiflu, claiming there is no evidence the drug can actually stop the flu.

The drug has been stockpiled by dozens of governments worldwide in case of a global flu outbreak and was widely used during the 2009 swine flu pandemic.

On Monday, one of the researchers linked to the BMJ journal called for European governments to sue Roche. "I suggest we boycott Roche's products until they publish missing Tamiflu data," wrote Peter Gotzsche, leader of the

Nordic Cochrane Centre in Copenhagen. He said gov-

ernments should take legal action against Roche to

get the money back that was "needlessly" spent on stockpiling Tamiflu.

Last year, Tamiflu was included in a list of "essential medicines" by the World Health Organization, a list that often prompts governments or donor agencies to buy the drug.

Tamiflu is used to treat both seasonal flu and new flu viruses like bird flu or swine flu. WHO spokesman Gregory Hartl said the agency had enough proof to warrant its use for unusual influenza viruses, like bird flu.

"We do have substantive evidence it can stop or hinder progression to severe disease like pneumonia," he said.

In the U.S., the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention recommends Tamiflu as one of two medications for treating regular flu. The other is GlaxoSmithKline's Relenza. The CDC says such antivirals can shorten the duration of symptoms and reduce the risk of complications and hospitalization.

In 2009, the BMJ and researchers at the Nordic Cochrane Centre asked Roche to make all its Tamiflu data available. At the time, Cochrane Centre scientists were commissioned by Britain to evaluate flu drugs. They found no proof that Tamiflu reduced the number of complications in people with influenza.

"Despite a public promise to release (internal company reports) for each (Tamiflu) trial...Roche has stonewalled," BMJ editor Fiona Godlee wrote in an editorial last month.

In a statement, Roche said it had complied with all legal requirements on publishing data and provided Gotzsche and his colleagues with 3,200 pages of information to answer their questions.

"Roche has made full clinical study data ... available to national health authorities according to their various requirements, so they can conduct their own analyses," the company said.

Roche says it doesn't usually release patient-level data available due to legal or confidentiality constraints. It said it did not provide the requested data to the scientists because they refused to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Roche is also being investigated by the European Medicines Agency for not properly reporting side effects, including possible deaths, for 19 drugs including Tamiflu that were used in about 80,000 patients in the U.S. □



Packages of the medicine Tamiflu by Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche. A leading British medical journal is asking the drug maker Roche to release all its data on Tamiflu, claiming there is no evidence the drug can actually stop the flu. On Monday Nov. 12, 2012, one of the researchers linked to the BMJ called for European governments to sue Roche.

(AP Photo/Thomas Kienzle)

Food labels multiply, confusing consumers

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Want to avoid pesticides and antibiotics in your produce, meat, and dairy foods? Prefer to pay more to make sure farm animals were treated humanely, farmworkers got their lunch breaks, bees or birds were protected by the farmer and that ranchers didn't kill predators?

Food labels claim to certify a wide array of sustainable practices. Hundreds of so-called eco-labels have cropped up in recent years, with more introduced every month — and consumers are willing to pay extra for products that feature them.

While eco-labels can play a vital role, experts say their rapid proliferation and lack of oversight or clear standards have confused both consumers and producers. "Hundreds of eco labels exist on all kinds of products, and there is the potential for companies and producers to make false claims," said Shana Starobin, a food label expert at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. Eco-labels have multiplied in recent years in response to rising consumer demand for more information about products and increased attention to animal and farm-

worker welfare, personal health, and the effects of conventional farming on the environment.

"Credible labels can be very helpful in helping people get to what they want to get to and pay more for something they really care about," said Urvashi Rangan, director of consumer safety at Consumer Reports. "The labels are a way to bring the bottom up and force whole industries to improve their practices." The problem, Rangan and other said, is that few standards, little oversight and a lot of misinformation exist for the growing array of labels.

Some labels, such as the USDA organic certification, have standards set by the federal government to which third party certifiers must adhere. Some involve non-government standards and third-party certification, and may include site visits from independent auditors who evaluate whether a given farm or company has earned the label. But other labels have little or no standards, or are certified by unknown organizations or by self-interested industry groups. Many labels lack any oversight. And the problem is global, because California's products get sold overseas and fruits and vegetables from

Europe or Mexico with their own eco-labels make it onto U.S. plates.

The sheer number of labels and the lack of oversight create a credibility problem and risk rendering all labels meaningless and diluting demand for sustainably produced goods, Rangan said.



Products are shelved at La Playa Market in Inglewood, Calif. Food labels claim to certify a wide array of sustainable practices. Hundreds of so-called eco-labels have cropped up in recent years, and consumers are willing to pay extra for products that feature them.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

Daniel Mourad of Fresno, a young professional who likes to cook and often shops for groceries at Whole Foods, said he tends to be wary of judging products just by the labels — though sustainable practices are important to him. "Labels have really confused the public. Some have good intentions, but I don't know if they're re-

containing genetically modified ingredients.

Farmers like Gena Nonini in Fresno County say labels distinguish them from the competition.

Nonini's 100-acre Marian Farms, which grows grapes, almonds, citrus and vegetables, is certified biodynamic and organic, and her raisins are certified kosher. □



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RIM to unveil new BlackBerry phones on Jan. 30

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Research In Motion said Monday that it will hold an official launch event for its new BlackBerry 10 smartphones on Jan. 30. The new phones are seen as critical to RIM's survival. The Waterloo, Ontario-based company said Monday details on the much-delayed smartphones and their availability will be announced at the event. The announcement comes as the company struggles in North America to hold onto customers who are abandoning BlackBerrys for flashier iPhones and Android phones. RIM's current software is still focused on email and messaging, and is less user-friendly, agile and robust than iPhone or Android. Its attempt at touch screens was a flop, and it lacks the apps that power other smartphones. RIM is hanging its hopes on the BlackBerry 10 software.

It is thoroughly redesigned for the touchscreen, Internet browsing and apps experience that customers now expect.

The Canadian company said the launch event will happen simultaneously in multiple countries.

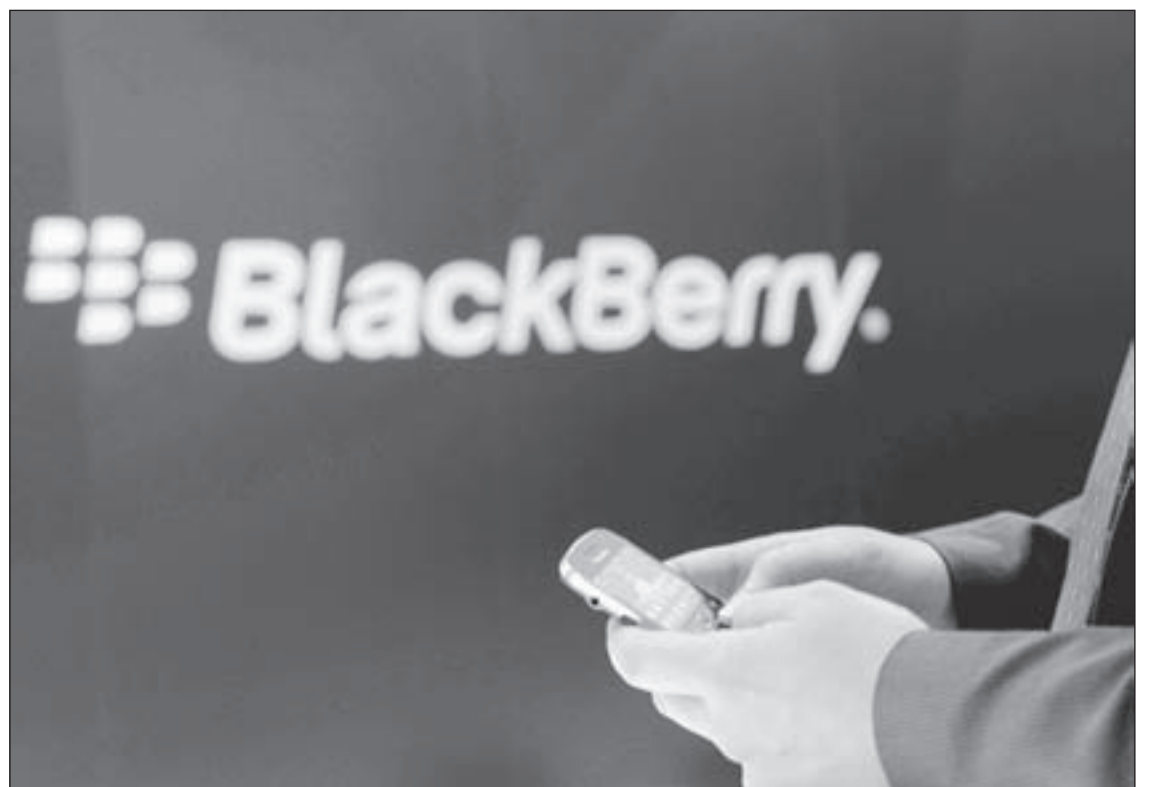
Jefferies analyst Peter Misek called it a make-or-break product release and said the date of the launch event suggests a release date in mid- to late February or in March.

A full touchscreen device is expected to be released first followed shortly after by a physical keyboard version.

BGC Financial Partners analyst Colin Gillis said the new phones won't be dead on arrival as some analysts have said because RIM hasn't lost the corporate market completely.

"Is 10 going to be the solution to retain that marketplace? We'll have to wait and see," Gillis said.

"It's great they set a date,



In this Nov. 8, 2011, file photo, a Blackberry employee holds a mobile phone of Blackberry in Berlin. ResearchInMotion(RIM)made another step towards the release of its new BlackBerry smartphones on Monday, Nov. 12, 2012, announcing that it plans to unveil the devices and its new operating system on Jan. 30.

Associated Press

Belize police looks for McAfee in murder case

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Police in Belize are looking for the founder of the software company McAfee, Inc., to question him about the death of another U.S. citizen, his neighbor in an island town on the Caribbean.

Spokesman Raphael Martinez says John McAfee is the neighbor of 52-year-old Gregory Viant Faull, who was found with a gunshot wound to his head inside his home north of San Pedro, a town in the island of Ambergris Caye. Martinez says other neighbors have been questioned, but McAfee has not been home. McAfee could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press.

Martinez said Monday that Faull's computer and phone were missing, but there were no signs of forced entry. The housekeeper discovered the body Sunday and called the police. □

but the challenges are still formidable. It's not an issue of initial demand.

It's an issue of sustained demand."

Gillis noted that RIM's launch of a tablet initially went OK but then demand fell sharply.

RIM's tablet, the Playbook, uses software on which the BlackBerry 10 will be based. RIM said last month the new BlackBerrys are being tested by 50 wireless carriers around the world.

Thorsten Heins, who took over as CEO in January after the company lost tens of

billions in market value, had vowed to do everything he could to release BlackBerry 10 this year but said in June that the timetable wasn't realistic. Heins says he can turn things around with BlackBerry 10.

The new BlackBerrys will be released after the holiday shopping season and well after Apple's launch of the iPhone 5, expected to be Apple's biggest product introduction yet.

RIM's platform transition is also happening under a new management team and as RIM lays off 5,000

employees as part of a bid to save \$1 billion.

RIM was once Canada's most valuable company with a market value of more than \$80 billion in 2008, but the stock has plummeted since, from over \$140 per share to around \$8.

Its decline evokes memories of Nortel, another former Canadian tech giant, which declared bankruptcy in 2009.

Shares of RIM rose 20 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$8.74 in midday trading in New York after rising as high as \$9.07 earlier. □

"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"

US stocks move sideways as 'cliff' looms

CHRISTINA REXRODE
DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writers

U.S. stocks closed nearly unchanged Monday, after a day of uneven trading plagued by investors' fears about the approaching "fiscal cliff."

The Dow Jones industrial average finished down 0.23 point at 12,815.16. It had spent the day trading gains and losses, never rising more than 46 points or falling more than 32.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged up 0.15 point to 1,380. The Nasdaq composite fell 0.61 to 2,904.26.

The closing level of the Dow was revised twice after trading closed. The New York Stock Exchange had experienced a trading glitch during the day, forcing it to alter its normal procedure for determining the closing prices of some stocks.

Trading was very light. The federal government and the U.S. bond market were

closed for Veterans Day, and no economic reports were released.

The fiscal cliff refers to government spending cuts and tax increases that are scheduled to kick in at the beginning of the new year, unless a divided Congress and the White House can work out a compromise before then.

Some traders thought the tentative trading action was nearly inevitable because there has been no positive or negative news about the economy or the possibility of a deal to avoid the fiscal cliff.

"Nothing good is going on," said Scott Freeze, president of Street One Financial in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania. "Everything forward-looking remains dreary."

Last week, after voters returned a long-deadlocked and divided government to Washington, the Dow dropped 434 points in two days and had one of its

worst weeks of the year. Even if lawmakers work out a compromise, as they usually do, the political fight until then is sure keep investors

a Democrat, and House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, have spoken of compromise but appear to be taking firm



Ronnie Howard, right, of Barclays directs trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

on edge, pitching the stock market back and forth until it's resolved. Economists say the cliff could cost the economy \$800 billion and 3 million jobs and would plunge the U.S. back into recession.

President Barack Obama,

stances on some issues. Obama will meet with labor representatives as well as other progressive groups Tuesday. He'll hold separate meetings with the business community Wednesday.

The effect on the mar-

kets has been widespread. Fiscal cliff worries were blamed for keeping a lid on European markets and Asian markets, which closed mostly lower.

In Greece, lawmakers passed a new austerity budget, and the country's international lenders drafted a report saying it had made progress in righting its finances. Greece is hoping the other euro countries will give it another \$40 billion in bailout loans. The budget and the report are crucial steps toward that goal.

Still, the new bailout isn't a sure thing: Some of the potential lenders must seek approval from their parliaments. Greece's main stock market index closed down 3.6 percent.

Freeze was among the underwhelmed. "At this point, all the Greek news is just noise," he said.

"None of these bailouts really solve the underlying problem. Now if all of a sudden Spain became incredibly solvent and its unemployment rate went to 5 percent, then you'd see" a reason to buy.

Across Europe, there were other reminders that the debt crisis is far from solved. The Banking Association of Spain, a country where hundreds of thousands of borrowers have fallen behind on their mortgages, said it would curb evictions of some struggling home owners.

Source: Kodak reaches deal to borrow \$793M

PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) —

Kodak has reached an agreement to borrow \$793 million, potentially allowing it to exit bankruptcy protection early next year, a person with knowledge of the arrangement said Monday. The printing and photography company would bor-

row the money from a private investment firm, Centerbridge Partners, and the lending arms of asset management firm The Blackstone Group and banks JP Morgan Chase & Co. and UBS AG.

The deal is contingent on Kodak being able to sell its patent portfolio for more than \$500 million, said the

person, which spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been announced. The company has been trying to sell that asset for more than a year.

The loan would consist of \$476 million in new loans and \$317 million in roll-overs of old debt. There's a provision to convert \$567 million

into "exit financing," a prerequisite for emerging from bankruptcy protection.

Kodak filed for bankruptcy protection in January after struggling to adapt to the world of digital photography.

News of the deal was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal.

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Leucadia buying Jefferies Group

NEW YORK (AP) — Leucadia National is buying the investment banking firm Jefferies Group for about \$2.8 billion in stock in a deal executives said Monday would better position both companies for growth in the years ahead.

The transaction will make Jefferies the largest business for a diversified holding company with more than \$9 billion in assets, ranging from lumber and plastics manufacturers, energy production facilities and an oil and gas contract driller to medical product developers, a hotel and casino, wineries and other real estate interests.

Leucadia already held a 28.6 percent stake in Jefferies, which will still operate as a full-service investment banking firm. After the deal closes, 35.3 percent of Leucadia's stock will be owned by Jefferies Group Inc. stockholders.

As part of the deal, Jefferies Chairman and CEO Richard Handler will become the CEO of Leucadia. Leucadia's Chairman and CEO Ian Cumming will retire but remain on the board.

Leucadia President Joseph Steinberg will become chairman.

Handler emphasized that the deal is being done at a time of significant strength for both companies and said its aim is to create more long-term value.

Jefferies' stockholders will receive 0.81 of a share of Leucadia stock for each share they hold. This doesn't include Leucadia's current 28.6 percent of Jefferies outstanding stock.

The companies' boards have approved the deal. □

US seen overtaking Saudis in oil production

PABLO GOROND
Associated Press

The United States will become the world's largest oil producer by around 2020, temporarily overtaking Saudi Arabia, as new exploration technologies help find more resources, the International Energy Agency forecast on Monday.

In its World Energy Outlook, the energy watchdog also predicted that greater oil and natural gas production — thanks partly to a boom in shale gas output

— as well as more efficient use of energy will allow the U.S., which now imports some 20 percent of its en-

ergy needs, to become nearly self-sufficient around 2035. That is "a dramatic reversal of the trend seen in most other energy-importing countries," the Paris-based IEA said in its report.

"Energy developments in the United States are profound and their effect will be felt well beyond North America

— and the energy sector." Rebounding U.S. oil and gas production is "steadily changing the role of North America in global energy trade," the IEA said.

For example, oil exports out of the Mideast will increasingly go to Asia as the

U.S. becomes more self-sufficient. That will increase the global focus on the security of strategic routes that bring Middle East oil to Asian markets.

Tensions between Iran and Western powers have raised concerns that oil exports from the Persian Gulf could be blocked in a potential conflict over Tehran's alleged plan to develop nuclear weapons.

The IEA added that global trends in the energy markets will be influenced by some countries' retreat from nuclear power, the fast spread of wind and solar technologies and a rise

in unconventional gas production. The agency concluded that despite the rising use of low carbon energy sources, huge subsidies will keep fossil fuels "dominant in the global energy mix."

"Taking all new developments and policies into account, the world is still failing to put the global energy system onto a more sustainable path," the IEA said. Global energy needs are forecast to increase by a third by 2035, with 60 percent of the additional demand coming from China, India and the Middle East. □

Sherwin-Williams making \$2.34B acquisition

CLEVELAND (AP) — Sherwin-Williams is buying the privately held Mexican paint company Consorcio Comex in an all-cash deal valued at about \$2.34 billion.

Consorcio Comex, S.A. de C.V., sells paints and coatings under several brands in the United States and Canada, and it sells architectural and industrial coatings in Mexico. It has company-operated stores and also works with independent paint dealers.

The company is based in Mexico City and had a total of \$1.4 billion in sales last year. It employs 7,200 people and runs manufacturing sites in Mexico, the United States and Canada. "Sherwin-Williams and Co-

mex Group are an ideal fit in every respect — geo-

graphically, strategically and culturally," said Chris-

topher Connor, Chairman and CEO at Sherwin-Williams. "This transaction will significantly increase our presence in markets where our store count is low."

Sherwin-Williams Chairman and CEO Christopher M. Connor said in a statement from the company the deal helps increase its presence in markets where the company has a low store count, and it "builds upon our strategy to grow our architectural paint business in the Americas."

Sherwin-Williams, based in Cleveland, said the deal price includes assumed debt.

The Sherwin-Williams Co.'s brands include Dutch Boy, Minwax, Krylon and its namesake paints. □



A customer looks over color chips at a Sherwin Williams store in Columbus, Ohio. Sherwin-Williams is buying the privately held Mexican paint company Consorcio Comex in an all-cash deal valued at about \$2.34 billion

(AP Photo/Jay LaPrete)

MSNBC, the anti-Fox, gaining ground

BRIAN STELTER

© 2012 New York Times

Last week on Tuesday night, with a minute to go until the polls closed in the battleground state of Virginia, the MSNBC hosts Rachel Maddow and Chris Matthews received word through their earpieces that the state was too

get enough politics, as the nation's progressive television network, the challenge in the next four years will be to capitalize on that identity.

MSNBC, a unit of NBCUniversal, has a long way to go to overtake the Fox News Channel, a unit of News Corp.: On most nights

tisers desire. On three nights in a row after the election last week, MSNBC – whose hosts reveled in Obama's re-election – had more viewers than Fox in that demographic.

On election night, MSNBC had no trace of timidity left; Maddow led the coverage, surrounded by four other progressive hosts (Matthews, Al Sharpton, Lawrence O'Donnell and Ed Schultz) and one moderate conservative commentator (Steve Schmidt). The channel leaned heavily on non-NBC reporters, including several from the liberal magazine The Nation. Two studies this fall, one by Pew and another by European election observers, concluded that MSNBC's coverage of Mitt Romney was even more critical than Fox's coverage of Obama. Any comparison of the two channels is colored by charges of false equivalencies –

"I think that we are more information-based," Maddow has said – and reminders that Fox is far more popular. But MSNBC is becoming like Fox in at least one respect: in the length of time viewers tune in. □



From left: Steve Schmidt, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Chris Matthews, Rachel Maddow, Lawrence O'Donnell and Ed Schultz during Election Day on MSNBC, in an undated handout image.

(Steve Fenn/The New York Times)

close to call, according to the election analysts at MSNBC's parent, NBC News. "I think that's pretty significant," Matthews said optimistically as a commercial break wrapped up. Virginia, a state that had voted to elect a Democratic presidential candidate only once in 40 years – Barack Obama in 2008 – was not leaning toward Mitt Romney as some Republicans had predicted it would.

Inside the NBC "Sunday Night Football" studio that MSNBC was borrowing for the night, the stage manager loudly called out, "Here we go." Maddow softly repeated, "Here we go," and reported the news to 3 million viewers. When Obama won the state of Virginia and most of the other battleground states on Tuesday night, ensuring himself a second term as president, some at MSNBC felt like they had won as well.

During Obama's first term, MSNBC underwent a metamorphosis from a CNN also-ran to the anti-Fox, and handily beat CNN in the ratings along the way. Now that it is known, at least to those who can't

this year, Fox had 2 million more viewers than MSNBC. But the two channels, which skew toward an audience that is 55 or older, are on average separated by fewer than 300,000 viewers in the 25- to 54-year-old demographic that adver-

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MICHAEL CASEY

"We need to see how the recovery trend progresses

"The stock assessment results seem to indicate there may be the possibility of a glimmer of recovery but it's so uncertain at the moment," she said. "This is the first year where they will have to stick to science even if it does look like there is a bit of good news. So it's important from our perspective we retain pressure on governments at ICCAT to listen to that sci-



Associated Press

But the Japanese government and fishing industry argued successfully that an outright trading ban was too drastic a step, and that catch quotas set by ICCAT

In November 2010, ICCAT cut the annual global quota by 40 percent to 14,900 tons (13,500 metric tons) and since then reduced it to 14,200 tons (12,900 metric tons) a year later. There has also been increased enforcement which has helped reduce illegal fish-

The United States, another key player at the negotiations, has said it supports "the rebuilding and term sustainable management of the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks by adopting science-based and precautionary conservation and management measures that ensure continued stock growth." But environmentalists also said it was too early to celebrate. For one thing, the European Union pressured by fishing nations like Spain and Italy has left open the possibility that it will push to increase quotas at the ICCAT meeting to 14,900 tons (13,500 metric tons) — something ICCAT scientist have said still would allow the continued recovery of bluefin. □

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Hathaway says 'Les Mis' made her feel deprived

NEW YORK (AP) — Anne Hathaway credits her new husband Adam Schulman for helping her get through the grueling filming of the screen adaptation of "Les Misérables."

In "Les Mis," the 30-year-old actress plays Fantine, a struggling, sickly mother forced into prostitution in 1800s Paris.

Hathaway lost 25 pounds (11 kilograms) and cut her hair for the role. She tells the December issue of *Vogue* that the part left her in a "state of deprivation, physical and emotional." She felt easily overwhelmed and says Schulman was understanding and supportive.

The couple wed in September in Big Sur, California. Hathaway wore a custom



This cover image provided by *Vogue* shows actress Anne Hathaway on the cover of the December issue of "Vogue."

Associated Press

gown by Valentino whom she collaborated with on the design. Working with the designer is a memory she says she will "treasure forever." □

Headstone placed on grave of 'Little Rascals' star



BALTIMORE (AP) — Fans of the "Little Rascals" film series were in Baltimore this weekend to place a headstone at the grave of child actor Norman "Chubby" Chaney. Chaney's grave had been unmarked for 76 years since he died at age 21. Chaney was paid a weekly salary when he appeared in the films between 1929 and 1931.

But he didn't receive any

royalties or residual payments and returned to Baltimore when he grew out of the role. The Baltimore Sun reported Sunday that he struggled with his weight as a teenager. When he died, his mother couldn't afford a headstone for his grave. The series was known as "Our Gang" when it was shown in theaters and later as the "Little Rascals" on television. □



In this June 11, 2010 file photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau, stand-up comedian Dave Attell performs at Treasure Island Casino and Resort on the Las Vegas strip.

Associated Press

Laughing in the storm:

Comics don't shy from Sandy

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedian Dave Attell told a packed house at the Comedy Cellar that New York after Superstorm Sandy had a familiar feel. "It was dark. Toilets were backing up. ... It was pretty much like it always was."

Another comic, Paul Mercurio, told the same crowd that he got so many calls from worried family members that he started making things up about how bad it was.

"I'm drinking my own urine to survive," he joked.

New York's comedy clubs, some of which had to shut down or go on generator power in the aftermath of the storm, dealt with a bad situation like they always have — by turning Sandy into a running punchline.

"If they're going to do jokes on Sept. 12 about Sept. 11, then this thing isn't going to slow us down," said Vic Henley, the emcee of a show Oct. 28 at Gotham Comedy Club.

Sean Flynn, Gotham's operating manager, said comics were including the storm in their acts but had to be careful nonetheless

not to make people feel worse than they already did.

"There's the old adage that tragedy plus time equals comedy. The variable is the time," he said. Still, he added: "You can't ignore the subject. That's what comedy's all about." The Comedy Cellar, a regular stop for decades for the country's most notable comedians, was closed from Oct. 28 through Nov. 1, but reopened on Nov. 2 after a generator was brought in at a cost of several thousand dollars. Power didn't return until the next day, and the crowds came with it.

"Everyone has a bad case of cabin fever," said Valerie Scott, the club's manager. Mercurio said he thought the joke was on him when he got a call from the Comedy Cellar saying the club was going ahead with its show even though there was no light in the West Village.

He headed downtown from the Upper East Side, hitting dark streets after midtown.

"It's pitch dark," he said. "And there's a room packed with people laugh-

ing. It was so surreal. ... I'm calling it the generator show. It was a really cool thing."

"You could feel there was something special about the show," he said.

"The audiences were tempered in their mood. You could tell something was up, something was in the air. I knew it was cathartic for people."

He said a woman approached him after the show to thank him, saying: "You kind of brightened my day."

Sometimes, comics used the storm to get a laugh at the expense of the crowd, like when Mark Normand looked down from the Comedy Cellar stage at a man with a thin beard.

"I like the beard," he told him. "Is that because of Sandy? You couldn't get your razor working?"

And Attell used Sandy to mock a heckler, telling him: "You must have been a load of laughs without power."

At another point, Attell looked for positives in the storm.

"There's nothing better than Doomsday sex," he said. □

A year on, YouTube's channels not yet must-see TV

AKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Google announced plans to fund some 100 new channels of original programming on YouTube, many expected a transformation in television.

But a year later, the revolution has not yet been YouTubed.

Google had disrupted other industries, and TV appeared to be next in line. Just as a handful of networks begat a few hundred cable channels, YouTube would now foster the birth of thousands of channels online.

Since it was founded in 2005, YouTube has been predominately the home of user-created video, and 72 hours of video are uploaded every minute. But the site is trying to lure viewers to stay longer and coax advertisers to pair their brands with known talent. YouTube is now doubling down on its investment. It recently expanded into Europe with another 50-plus channels. And it is re-investing in 40 percent of the channels that have already launched. That means more than half of the channels have failed to catch on, yet it's still a rate



In this Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012 image provided by Red Bull Stratos, pilot Felix Baumgartner of Austria jumps out of his capsule during the final manned flight for Red Bull Stratos.

Associated Press

of success that any network programmer would kill for.

"What we're trying to do is galvanize the creative and advertising community," Robert Kyncl, YouTube's global head of content and the leader of its channels initiative, said in an interview. "And we're succeeding at that."

YouTube has declined to make public the size of its investment. The initial channel launch was reportedly fueled by \$100 million, a number YouTube executives dispute. Kyncl will go no further than to confirm

the \$200 million he pledged to spend marketing the channels at YouTube's TV-style upfront presentation to advertisers in May — a flashy event capped by a performance by Jay-Z, who recently launched a lifestyle channel called Life and Times.

Jamie Byrne, director of content strategy, said the second round of funding would be relatively similar to the amount of the first round, on a per channel basis. Those not being offered more money aren't canceled; they are en-

couraged to keep going but will have to pay their own way.

The fabric of the site has been reoriented to emphasize a user's playlist of channels, a move that has increased channel subscribers by 50 percent, executives say.

Forrester analyst James McQuivey, who specializes in digital video and was among those who predicted YouTube's channels would be a landmark shift, has not seen the progress he expected. He would like to see YouTube try to

produce some mainstream originals, as Netflix and Hulu have, in order to attract mass audiences, not just niche ones.

"They haven't really changed the way people watch TV," McQuivey said. "That said, to have expected to do that in a year would have been kind of crazy."

Perhaps the closest a YouTube channel has come to a mainstream viewing event was Red Bull's October 14 webcast of daredevil Felix Baumgartner's free-fall jump from space. Some 52 million watched the channel's live stream, a viewership that far outpaced the 7.6 million who watched it on the Discovery Channel in the U.S.

Most programming has been more of the talk show variety. Rainn Wilson gets metaphysical on his channel "Soul Pancake." Amy Poehler gives young women a role model with "Smart Girls." Shaquille O'Neal flexes a new muscle with "Comedy Shaq."

The most popular few channels typically draw 5-10 million viewers weekly. Most channels, though, receive less than 100,000 views per week and some draw just a few thousand. □



This Nov. 7, 2012 photo released by Starpix shows model Karlie Kloss wearing an Indian headdress during the taping of The 2012 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in New York

Associated Press

FELICIA FONSECA

Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Arizona (AP) — Victoria's Secret has apologized for putting a Native American-style headdress on a model for its annual

fashion show, after the outfit was criticized as a display of ignorance toward tribal culture and history. The company responded to the complaints over the weekend by saying it was

Victoria's Secret apologizes for use of headdress

sorry to have upset anyone and that it wouldn't include the outfit in the show's television broadcast next month, or in any marketing materials.

"We sincerely apologize as we absolutely had no intention to offend anyone," the company said.

Historically, headdresses are a symbol of respect, worn by Native American war chiefs and warriors. For Great Plains tribes, for instance, each feather placed on a headdress has significance and had to be earned through an act of compassion or bravery. Some modern-day Native American leaders have received war bonnets in ceremonies accompanied by

prayers and songs.

"When you see a Lakota chief wearing a full headdress, you know that he was a very honorable man. He was a leader."

He did a lot of honorable things for his people," said Michelle Spotted Elk, a Santa Cruz, California, woman of mixed heritage whose husband is Lakota.

"It also has religious significance. With them, there's not a division between spirituality and their leadership."

Victoria's Secret model Karlie Kloss walked onto the runway last week wearing the floor-length feathered headdress, leopard-print underwear and high heels. She also was adorned with

fringes and turquoise jewelry during a segment meant to represent the 12 months of the year — fireworks in July, rain gear for April and a headdress for November. Kloss herself posted on Twitter that she was "deeply sorry if what I wore during the VS Show offended anyone."

Thousands of people have commented about the outfit on the company's Facebook page.

Some praised Kloss' attire as artistic and urged those offended by it to "get over it." Several expressed appreciation to Victoria's Secret for halting its marketing of the clothing, and others reached back in history to explain their feelings. □

The Republicans' Demographic Excuse



ROSS DOUTHAT

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The Republican Party has lost the popular vote in five of the past six presidential elections. It just failed to unseat a president presiding over one of the longest stretches of mass unemployment since the Great Depression. In a year when the Senate map offered them numerous opportunities, the Republicans managed to lose two, seats instead.

In part, these failures can be attributed to the country's changing demographics. Reliable Republican constituencies — whites, married couples and churchgoers — are shrinking as a share of the electorate. Democratic-leaning constituencies — minorities, recent immigrants, the unmarried and unchurched — are growing, and voting in larger numbers than in the past.

But Republicans are also losing because today's economic landscape is very different than in the days of Ronald Reagan's land-slides. The problems that middle-class Americans faced in the late 1970s are not the problems of today. Health care now takes a bigger bite than income taxes out of many paychecks. Wage stagnation is a bigger threat to blue-collar workers than inflation. Middle-income parents worry more about the cost of college than the crime rate. Americans are more likely to fret about Washington's coziness with big business than about big government alone. Both shifts, demographic and economic, must be addressed if Republicans are to find a way back to the majority. But the temptation for the party's elites will be to fasten on the demographic explanation, because playing identity politics seems far less painful than overhauling the Republican economic message. This explains why many high-profile Republicans responded to last Tuesday's defeat by embracing some form of amnesty for illegal immigrants. Fox News' Sean Hannity, a reliable weather vane, publicly converted to the cause of comprehensive immigration reform last week. The Washington Post's Charles Krauthammer argued that if the Republican Party embraced amnesty and nominated Marco Rubio, it would win the Hispanic vote outright in 2016, solving its demographic problem in one swoop. Judging from the noises emanating from John Boehner and Eric Cantor, the party's congressional leadership agrees. No doubt a more moderate tone on immigration would help Republicans. But the idea of amnesty as a Latino-winning elec-

toral silver bullet is a fantasy.

First, Hispanics are not single-issue voters: they can be alienated by nativism, but they can't just be won by the promise of green cards and open borders. (After Reagan signed an amnesty bill in 1986, the Republican share of the Hispanic vote fell in the next presidential election.) Latino voters are not, as conservative strategists often claim, "natural" Republican voters — notwithstanding their (moderate) social conservatism, they tend to lean leftward on economic issues, and to see government more as an ally than a foe. They can be wooed, gradually, if Republicans address their aspirations and anxieties, but they aren't going to be claimed in one legislative pander.

At the same time, a Republican Party that moves too far leftward on immigration risks alienating its white working-class supporters, an easily disillusioned constituency whose support the party cannot take for granted. These voters already suspect that Republican elites don't have their interests at heart: Mitt Romney lost last week because he underperformed among minority voters, but also because a large number of working-class whites apparently stayed home. If the party's only post-2012 adjustment is to embrace amnesty, they aren't likely to turn out in 2016 either.

What the party really needs, much more than a better identity-politics pitch, is an economic message that would appeal across demographic lines — reaching both downscale white voters turned off by Romney's Bain Capital background and upwardly mobile Latino voters who don't relate to the current GOP fixation on upper-bracket tax cuts. As the American Enterprise Institute's Henry Olsen writes, it should be possible for Republicans to oppose an overweening and intrusive state while still recognizing that "government can give average people a hand up to achieve the American Dream." It should be possible for the party to reform and streamline government while also addressing middle-class anxieties about wages, health care, education and more. The good news is that such an agenda already exists, at least in embryonic form. Thanks to four years of intellectual ferment, Republicans seeking policy renewal have a host of thinkers and ideas to draw from: Luigi Zingales and Jim Pethokoukis on crony capitalism, Ramesh Ponnuru and Robert Stein on tax policy, Frederick Hess on education reform, James Capretta on alternatives to Obamacare, and many more.

The bad news is that unlike a pander on immigration, a new economic agenda probably wouldn't be favorably received by the party's big donors, who tend to be quite happy with the Republican Party's current positioning.

But after spending billions of those donors' dollars with nothing to show for it, perhaps Republicans should seek a different path: One in which they raise a little less money but win a few more votes. □



Romney Is President



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON — It makes sense that Mitt Romney and his advisers are still gobsmacked by the fact that they're not commandeering the West Wing.

(Though, as "The Daily Show" correspondent John Oliver jested, the White House might have been one of the smaller houses Romney ever lived in.)

Team Romney has every reason to be shellshocked. Its candidate, after all, resoundingly won the election of the country he was wooing. Mitt Romney is the president of white male America. Maybe the group can retreat to a man cave in a Whiter House, with mahogany paneling, brown leather Chesterfields, a moose head over the fireplace, an elevator for the presidential limo, and one of those men's club signs on the phone that reads: "Telephone Tips: 'Just Left,' 25 cents; 'On His Way,' 50 cents; 'Not here,' \$1; 'Who?' \$5." In its delusional death spiral, the white male patriarchy was so hard core, so redolent of country clubs and Cadillacs, it made little effort not to alienate women. The election had the largest gender gap in the history of the Gallup poll, with Obama winning the vote of single women by 36 percentage points. As W.'s former aide Karen Hughes put it in Politico on Friday, "If an-

other Republican man says anything about rape other than it is a horrific, violent crime, I want to personally cut out his tongue."

Some Republicans conceded they were "a 'Mad Men' party in a 'Modern Family' world" (although "Mad Men" seems too louche for a candidate who doesn't drink or smoke and who apparently dated only one woman). They also acknowledged that Romney's strategists ran a 20th-century campaign against David Plouffe's 21st-century one.

But the truth is, Romney was an unpalatable candidate. And shocking as it may seem, his strategists weren't blowing smoke when they said they were going to win; they were just clueless.

Until now, Republicans and Fox News have excelled at conjuring alternate realities. But this time, they made the mistake of believing their fake world actually existed.

As Fox's Megyn Kelly said to Karl Rove on election night, when he argued against calling Ohio for Obama: "Is this just math that you do as a Republican to make yourself feel better?"

Romney and tea party loonies dismissed half the country as chattel and moochers who did not belong in their "traditional" America. But the more they insulted the president with birther cracks, the more they tried to force chastity belts on women, and the more they made Hispanics, blacks and gays feel like the help, the more these groups burned to prove that, knitted together, they could give the dead-enders of white male domination the boot.

The election about the economy also sounded the death knell for the Republican culture wars.

Romney was still running in an illusory country where husbands told wives how to vote, and the wives who worked had better get home in time to cook dinner. But

in the real country, many wives were urging husbands not to vote for a Brylcreemed boss out of a '50s boardroom whose party was helping to revive a 50-year-old debate over contraception.

Just like the Bushes before him, Romney tried to portray himself as more American than his Democratic opponent. But America's gallimaufry wasn't knuckling under to the gentry this time.

If 2008 was about exalting the One, 2012 was about the disenfranchised Democratic base deciding: "We are the Ones we've been waiting for."

Last time, Obama lifted up the base with his message of hope and change; this time the base lifted up Obama, with the hope he will change. He has not led the Obama army to leverage power, so now the army is leading Obama.

When the first African-American president was elected, his supporters expected dramatic changes. But Obama feared that he was such a huge change for the country to digest, it was better if other things remained status quo. Michelle played Laura Petrie, and the president was dawdling on promises. Having Joe Biden blurt out his support for gay marriage forced Obama's hand.

The president's record-high rate of deporting illegal immigrants infuriated Latinos. Now, on issues from loosening immigration laws to taxing the rich to gay rights to climate change to legalizing pot, the country has leapt ahead, pulling the sometimes listless and ruminating president by the hand, urging him to hurry up.

More women voted than men. Five women were newly elected to the Senate, and the number of women in the House will increase by at least three. New Hampshire will be the first state to send an all-female delegation to Congress. Live Pink or Dye. □

Report: Zimbabwe government plundering diamond funds

GILLIAN GOTORA

Associated Press

VICTORIA FALLS, Zimbabwe

(AP) — At least \$2 billion

worth of diamonds have been stolen from Zimbabwe's eastern diamond fields and have enriched President Robert Mugabe's ruling circle, international gem dealers and criminals, according to an organization leading the campaign against conflict diamonds. Zimbabwe's Marange fields have seen "the biggest plunder of diamonds since Cecil Rhodes," the colonial magnate who exploited South Africa's Kimberley diamonds a century ago, charged Partnership Africa Canada, a member of the Kimberley Process, the world regulatory body on the diamond trade.

Zimbabwe's eastern Marange field — one of the world's biggest diamond deposits — has been mined since 2006 and its vast earnings could have turned around Zimbabwe's economy, battered by years of meltdown and political turmoil, the group said. But funds from the diamond sales have not showed up in the state treasury. Instead there is evidence that millions have gone to Mugabe's cronies. The report, released Monday to coincide with the Zimbabwe government's conference on the diamond trade here in Victoria Falls, casts a shadow over the Mugabe regime's effort to win international respectability for its gem trade. Government officials at the conference denied the report's allegations as "totally false."

Mugabe pledged that Zimbabwe will soon have new law to ensure greater transparency and accountability in order to boost the "international reputation of our diamonds." Opening the conference, Mugabe said his government is committed to observing "international laws on diamond mining, storage and trading."

The report condemns the Mugabe government's control of the Marange

diamond fields which have made Zimbabwe a major player in the international diamond trade.

"Marange's potential has been overshadowed by violence, smuggling, cor-

ruption and is linked to a "small and tight group of political and military elites who have been in charge of Marange from the very beginning" and who are personally benefiting from

of transparency in accounting for how many diamonds are mined, how much is earned from their sales, the underpricing of gems on world markets, smuggling and a "high lev-

able money and "underscores a price manipulation scheme perpetrated by Indian buyers and their Zimbabwe allies, with whom they are believed to share the spoils," the report said.

In addition, the report's researchers were unable to locate a 2.5 million carat stockpile, valued at around \$200 million, which mysteriously disappeared in November 2011. It also charges that \$300 million in diamond sales never made it to the Zimbabwe treasury in 2011.

The PAC's allegations are "totally false," said the chairman of one of the state-run diamond mining companies in Marange. Goodwills Masimirembwa, chief of Zimbabwe Mining Development Company, told The Associated Press that it was the first time he heard charges of diamonds disappearing.

"No diamonds have ever gone missing," said Masimirembwa. "When we are selling our diamonds all stakeholders, the police, revenue board and the country's mineral marketing body come together. So are they saying all these institutions are in collusion? Instead, let them come up with specific allegations, then the police will investigate."

The watchdog report also criticized the Kimberley Process for allowing Zimbabwe's diamonds to be mined and sold in way that was not open to scrutiny.

"Calls for greater transparency have been dismissed within the Kimberley Process," it said.

"The lack of transparency surrounding Zimbabwe's diamond revenue is matter of critical public interest and amplifies concerns for some time that these revenues are funding a parallel government" of police and military officers and government officials loyal to Mugabe, many known to be building private mansions and buying luxury cars costing far in excess of their income from tax-funded salaries, said the report. □



(Above & Below) Miners dig for diamonds in Marange, Zimbabwe. At least \$2 billion worth of diamonds have been stolen from Zimbabwe's eastern diamond fields and have enriched President Robert Mugabe's ruling circle, international gem dealers and criminals, according to an organization leading the campaign against conflict diamonds.

(AP Photos/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi)

ruption and most of all, lost opportunity," the PAC report said.

"The scale of illegality is mind-blowing," and has spread to "compromise most of the diamond markets of the world," said the report.

The report describes the \$2 billion lost to the Zimbabwe treasury as a "conservative estimate."

Finance Minister Tendai Biti said in his 2012 budget he had been promised \$600 million in diamond revenue for the national treasury to help re-finance crumbling health, education and other public services. Biti said that only one-fourth of that pledge has been received. Mines Minister Obert Mpofo, a Mugabe loyalist, insists that Western economic sanctions have prevented the government from getting good prices for the diamonds on the international market. But Mpofo has repeatedly refused to give exact figures on diamond revenues, said the PAC report.

Mpofo, the mines minister since 2009, amassed an unexplained personal



the diamond sales, the report alleged.

In 2010 leading industry insiders, including Filip van Loere, a Belgian diamond expert working for the Mugabe government, forecast the country could produce as much as 30 million to 40 million carats a year, worth about \$2 billion annually, the PAC report said. The diamonds are being mined and sold but the funds are not reaching the Zimbabwean treasury, according to the report.

Most of the diamond revenue is lost through a lack

of collusion" by government officials.

Records show that 10 million carats of Marange diamonds were exported to Dubai in late 2012 for \$600 million,

which the report said is an artificially low price because the same stones were sold for double their original price when they left Dubai for Surat, India — the world's biggest diamond cutting center. It says the gems should have been valued at \$1.2 billion.

The low valuation lost the Zimbabwe nation consider-